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STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 78, No. 237 ©SS 2020

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Former Vice President Joe Biden, left, and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., skip a handshake and greet each other by bumping elbows Sunday before participating in the Democratic Party's 11th presidential debate in Washington.

'Bigger than any one of us'

Biden, Sanders tackle pandemic in 11th Democratic debate

BY JULIE PACE
AND ALEXANDRA JAFFE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., sought in the Democratic debate to cast themselves as best-positioned to lead the nation through a global pandemic, uniting in their criticism of President Donald Trump's response to the fast-moving coronavirus but

diverging in how they would confront the spiraling public health and economic crisis.

Biden pledged Sunday to deploy the U.S. military to help with recovery efforts and warned that a federal financial bailout might be necessary to stabilize the economy. Sanders leaned into the same domestic policy proposals that have dominated his campaign, arguing that the government-run health insurance system he has long championed would allow the U.S. to respond more quickly

to a health crisis.

The coronavirus outbreak rapidly had reshaped nearly all aspects of American life, shuttering schools across the country and significantly curtailing travel. Virus fears also have halted campaign rallies and prompted some states to delay upcoming primaries because of warnings from public health officials against large gatherings.

SEE DEBATE ON PAGE 9

GAO REPORT

F-35's \$17B diagnostic system rife with flaws

BY TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg

A \$17 billion Lockheed Martin system used since 2009 to monitor F-35 fighter jets for repairs, parts replacement and general maintenance is rife with flaws, sometimes forcing personnel to spend hours entering data by hand, according to congressional auditors.

Maintenance crews at one of five U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps bases that were reviewed "estimated they spend an average of 5,000 to 10,000 hours per year manually tracking information that should be automatically and accurately captured" by Lockheed's system, the Government Accountability Office said in a report obtained by Bloomberg News.

In addition, "inaccurate or missing data" in the Autonomic Logistics Information System, or ALIS, sometimes result in alerts that "an aircraft should not be flown even though it is ready for flight," the GAO said. Airmen said the flaws are affecting the readiness of the fighter jets built by Lockheed. At one location, crews experienced as many as 400 "issues per week related to inaccurate or missing electronic records," according to the report.

The problem adds to uncertainty about the F-35, the world's costliest weapons system. Attention long focused on the plane's \$428 billion acquisition program and on setbacks in development and production. But now the cost of sustaining the planes — estimated at about \$1.2 billion over 66 years — is what most worries military officials and lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee panel that requested the GAO assessment.

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INSIDE: Isolation areas set up for those awaiting virus tests in Afghanistan Page 4

USS Boxer sailor tests positive for virus; remains quarantined at home Page 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Stock futures sink after rate cut, virus restraints

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stock markets are set for another week of turbulent trading as U.S. index futures fell sharply after the Federal Reserve slashed interest rates and more companies and governments took action over the weekend to shut down European and American society.

Futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 5% Sunday night, triggering a halt in trading. The price of

oil fell about 5% while gold gained about 2%.

Stocks are coming off a dizzying week that saw the Dow twice fall by more than 2,000 points and also record it's biggest point gain ever — 1,985 points on Friday. Europe markets suffered similarly sharp declines.

The Fed cut its key rate by a full percentage point — to a range between zero and 0.25% — and said it would keep it there until it feels confident that the economy can survive a sudden near-shutdown

of economic activity in the United States. The surprise announcement signaled the Fed's concern that the viral outbreak will depress economic growth in coming months and that it is prepared to do whatever it can counter the risks.

The fact the Fed made its move before a meeting scheduled for midweek indicated the Fed policymakers felt they needed to act immediately to shore up financial markets and investors' confidence.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (March 17)	\$1.1497	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3777
Dollar buys (March 17)	60.8698	British pound	\$1.2269
British pound (March 17)	\$1.26	Canada (Dollar)	1.3958
Japanese yen (March 17)	103.00	China (Yuan)	7.0188
South Korean won (March 17)	1,189.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.7036
		Egypt (Pound)	15.7499
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1150/0.8969
		Hungary (Forint)	7.6722
		Israel (Shekel)	3.7578
		Japan (Yen)	105.70
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3089
		Norway (Krone)	10.2979
		Philippines (Peso)	51.68
		Poland (Zloty)	3.96
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7530
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.4216
		South Korea (Won)	1,229.60
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9460
		Thailand (Baht)	32.15
		Turkey (Lira)	6.4123

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	1.75
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	1.09
3-month bill	0.26
30-year bond	1.56

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at
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MILITARY

2nd Navy vessel sails near disputed islands

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell steamed through disputed waters in the South China Sea in the second freedom of navigation operation by the U.S. Navy this year.

The destroyer sailed near the Paracel Islands, a group of contested islands and reefs, on March 10, according to a statement Monday from the 7th Fleet, China, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping claims on the Paracels.

Beijing on March 11 objected

to the McCampbell's passage, according to an online report by msn.com.

"Under the guise of 'freedom of navigation,' the US has repeatedly flexed its muscles, been provocative and stirred up trouble in the South China Sea," msn.com quoted the People's Liberation Army Southern Theatre command spokesman Col. Li Huamin as saying.

"This is a hegemonic act that violates international law, and ... threatens the peace and stability of the South China Sea."

The PLA thanked the McCampbell and warned it to leave the

area, msn.com reported.

International law holds that ships from other nations do not need permission for "innocent passage" within a 12-mile territorial limit, according to an email Friday from 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommensen to Stars and Stripes.

Territorial seas normally extend 12 nautical miles from the coastline.

"Unlawful and sweeping maritime claims in the South China Sea pose an unprecedented threat to the freedom of the seas, including the freedoms of navigation and overflight and the right

of innocent passage of all ships," Mommensen said.

In January, the littoral combat ship USS Montgomery sailed near reefs in the Spratly Islands, another feature in the South China Sea. The Montgomery steamed near Fiery Cross, a reef militarized by China, and Johnson South, where the country has made similar build-ups.

The U.S. does not recognize any nation's claim of sovereignty over the Spratly Islands.

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MARIUS CASTANEDA/U.S. Navy

Airmen Beniah Norris scans the horizon while standing watch aboard the USS McCampbell in the South China Sea last week.

US, S. Korea again meet to break cost-sharing deadlock

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea will resume talks to hammer out a defense cost-sharing agreement this week in Los Angeles as thousands of local workers face an imminent strike.

The negotiations, which were scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, will be the first in more than two months. The two sides remain deadlocked over U.S. demands that the South sharply increase its contribution to offset the costs of stationing some 28,500 service members on the divided peninsula.

U.S. negotiators have reportedly dropped initial demands for a fivefold increase in funding of nearly \$5 billion a year but are still seeking an increase of at least three times the \$920 million that South Korea paid last year.

Seoul, meanwhile, is believed to have offered to go as high as 10% more but wants to maintain the framework of the so-called Special Measures Agreement, which currently covers most of the salaries of South Koreans who work for the U.S. military as well as other logistical and construction costs.

Washington has sought to expand the scope to include the cost of rotational troops in a bid to justify increased defense spending, which is a test of President Donald Trump's "America First" policy calling on allies to pay more for their own defense.

"It's going to be a very difficult negotiation once again because I think there are still huge differences between Korea and the United States about the total sum of the money," said Won Gon Park, an international relations professor who has been involved in past negotiations.

He noted that South Korea will hold parliamentary elections in April, which will further delay the process since any agreement must be ratified by the National Assembly.

The Los Angeles talks will be the seventh round since September. The teams led by James DeHart for the State Department and Jeong Eun-bo for South Korea last met in Washington in January.

"Our government will consult closely with the U.S. side under the basic position that both sides should share defense expenses fairly at a reasonable level within the framework of the existing agreement, with the aim of reaching an agreement as soon as possible," South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The stakes are high as U.S. Forces Korea has warned more than 9,000 South Korean employees that they may be placed on unpaid leave on April 1 if no deal is reached.

That raised political pressure on the South Korean government and threatened the military community with increased delays in services and other inconveniences even as the country is coping with a coronavirus outbreak.

The previous contract expired at the end of 2019, but the United States had been paying the salaries with programmed funds that will run out at the end of this month.

USFK is expected to maintain more than a third of the work force after the Defense Department agreed to continue funding "critical" logistics cost-sharing contracts and key positions providing "life, health, safety and readiness services."

But the situation has been complicated by the coronavirus, which has caused the Army to temporarily halt moves to new assignments that will lead to a major backlog in the spring.

USFK commander Gen. Robert Abrams said he has asked for additional resources and to be able to retain some South Korean employees to help mitigate the hardships.

"We'll have quite a few service members stacked in the queue," Abrams said Friday during a video briefing for Pentagon reporters. "So, we're going to have a bulge competing with all the in-bounds and normal outbounds for the months of May and June."

The South Korea has helped support U.S. troops under the agreement since 1991. Past deals have usually been for five years, but negotiators agreed to a yearlong stopgap measure after missing the 2018 deadline as well.

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F-35: Lockheed says most recent software updates drew 'very favorable user feedback'

FROM FRONT PAGE

A fully functioning diagnostic system at the wing and squadron level, as well as a network of depots, which has lagged, are key to reducing the estimated costs, officials say. Personnel at the five bases the GAO visited said the system has improved since 2015 as Lockheed issued three upgrades but they "continue to report significant challenges" that are affecting day-to-day F-35 operations, the agency said.

Maintenance personnel at the bases also raised concerns similar to the Pentagon inspector general's office, which said in June that parts from Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed frequently lacked the electronic usage history needed to install them. The inspector general said Lockheed may have been overpaid as much as \$10.6 million. This year's defense policy bill mandated that the Pentagon take steps to recoup those dollars.

The maintenance crews "expressed concern about data integrity issues" and "told us that electronic records are frequently incorrect, corrupt or missing, resulting in ALIS signaling that the aircraft should [be] grounded, often in cases where maintainers know that the parts have been correctly installed and safe for flight," the GAO said.

The Pentagon announced in January that it's phasing in a new military-managed diagnostic system intended to incorporate

the best features of Lockheed's version while offering major improvements the Air Force developed in its own software laboratories and the 309th Software Engineering Group.

Dubbed "ODIN," after the father of the god Thor in Norse mythology, the first of the new equipment is supposed to be delivered in September, with initial use in late 2021. It's intended to be fully operational by December 2022 for all F-35 squadrons, Lt. Gen. Eric Fick, the F-35 program manager, told an industry conference on March 4.

That's if the program stays on schedule, which has been a rarity for the almost 20-year effort to develop, produce and deploy the F-35.

Ellen Lord, the Defense Department's acquisition chief, who's kept a close watch on F-35 support challenges, told the GAO in a written response that officials "are building the strategy that will guide ODIN's development and will include items such as key tasks, milestones and schedule."

Lockheed spokesman Brett Ashworth said in a statement that the company is working with the Pentagon on enhancements to the current system. "We remain committed to improving speed, reducing labor and enhancing the user experience as we transition" to the government led-ODIN, he said. Ashworth said the most recent software updates drew "very favorable user feedback."

Search on for driver who fled after car crash near US base in Germany

By MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

A driver near the U.S. Army's Grafenwoehr Training Area fled the scene after the driver's car struck trees and burst into flames, German police said Monday.

The car veered off the road and into the forest Sunday at about 5:30 a.m. on County Road 22 near Josephstal. The Opel Corsa caught fire after it hit two trees, Eschenbach police chief Walter Schaeffler said.

The driver was gone by the

time firefighters arrived shortly afterward, officials said.

"Indications lead to the U.S. Army's training area," Schaeffler said.

The car was a rental driven by a soldier, the Nordbayern.de and other German news outlets re-

ported Sunday. German officials declined to confirm the report Monday.

German and U.S. military police searched the area on the ground and by helicopter for the driver, who wasn't found. German police are investigating the

driver for fleeing the scene of an accident.

U.S. military officials were not immediately available for comment Monday.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Exercise in caution: Pentagon curtails Defender-Europe 20

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon has ordered a halt to the deployment of forces for Defender-Europe 20, which would have been the military's largest exercise on the Continent in a generation, because of concerns about the coronavirus, U.S. European Command said Monday.

Parts of the exercise have been completely eliminated, including Dynamic Front, Joint Warfighting Assessment, Saber Strike and Swift Response, which involved paratroopers dropping into the Republic of Georgia and the Baltics, officials said.

"As of March 13, all movement of personnel and equipment from the United States to Europe has ceased. The health, safety and readiness of our military, civilians, and family members is our primary concern," EUCOM said.

Forces already deployed to Europe for exercises will return to the United States, EUCOM said.

Schedules for future troops returning in support of Atlantic Resolve — the Pentagon's effort to deter Russian aggression in Europe — are also likely to be ad-

justed, officials said.

Defender would have been the culmination of several years of military buildup on the Continent and was intended to showcase the military's ability to mobilize large numbers of forces quickly.

In addition to testing combat skills, Defender also was an exercise in large-scale logistics. The \$340 million exercise started in January when units loaded up combat equipment and shipped it across the Atlantic Ocean.

Around 20,000 U.S.-based troops were to take part in Defender, joining thousands of other American and allied forces already based in places like Poland, Germany and the Baltic States. The exercise was to run through June.

Now, the military will need to figure out a schedule for returning troops and equipment that had already arrived in Europe.

The exercise was designed to be a 21st-century version of the Cold War-era "REFORGER" drills that were held regularly to demonstrate to the Soviet Union the mobility of American forces.

Since January, the Army has deployed about 6,000 soldiers from the U.S. to Europe, includ-



JOY DULEN/U.S. Army

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division line up to meet U.S. and Polish dignitaries during a event at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, in support of Defender-Europe 20, March 11.

ing a division headquarters and an armored brigade combat team. It also moved 9,000 vehicles and pieces of equipment from Army prepositioned stocks and 3,000 pieces of equipment via sea from the United States to the Continent, EUCOM said.

EUCOM said it hoped an armored brigade combat team already deployed to Europe will still be able to conduct gunnery and other combined training events as part of a smaller exercise, dubbed Allied Spirit.

The announcement that the scope of Defender was being cut back because of the coronavirus follows a string of exercise cancellations for the same reason. Last week, a large cold weather exercise underway in Norway was

canceled and, earlier this month, a major EUCOM air defense drill in Israel was called off, both because of the coronavirus.

U.S. Africa Command said Monday that it has canceled one of its largest exercises on the continent over concerns about the coronavirus.

Exercise African Lion 2020 was slated to take place between March 23 and April 4 in Morocco, Tunisia and Senegal. Last week, AFRICOM said it would scale back the exercise because of concerns over the virus.

Meanwhile, planning is already underway for African Lion 2021, AFRICOM said.

Defender's downsizing comes days after the World Health Organization said Europe was the

epicenter of the global coronavirus pandemic amid a spike in the number of people testing positive for the virus. Several countries, including Germany and Poland, which would have been the main hubs for the Defender exercises, have shut their borders.

Twelve people have died in Germany and 4,838 have contracted the virus as of Sunday, the Robert Koch Institute said on its website. In Italy, where the health ministry said 1,809 people have died after contracting the virus, U.S. bases have joined the rest of the country and locked down. Italy has had 24,747 cases of coronavirus.

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Military in Stuttgart has 3 positive cases

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A third person connected to the military community in Stuttgart has tested positive for the coronavirus, and about 100 people are in self-isolation awaiting virus test results, Stuttgart's garrison commander said.

"I expect those numbers to go up," Col. Jason Condrey said Sunday on Facebook, referring to infections.

Stuttgart, which is home to U.S. European Command, Africa Command, and various special operations units, has a U.S. military community of 28,000 people.

Any member of the military community who feels ill should not come into the office, Condrey said.

A drive-thru screening site has been set up next to the health clinic at Patch Barracks for members of the military community who suspect they may have been exposed to the coronavirus.

"Trace teams" are working to track down anyone who was connected to those who have tested positive, including a EUCOM officer, a military contractor and a person who is no longer in the area, officials said.

The EUCOM officer and contractor both tested positive last week. Officials did not say when the latest positive test result was received, if the person was a service member or civilian and where that person is now.

Military police in Stuttgart are at the entry gates to facilities in Stuttgart, asking health-related questions and whether people arriving at the base have been in contact with anyone infected with the coronavirus.

A rise in the number of coronavirus diagnoses



JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

A third person has tested positive for the coronavirus in the Stuttgart military community, where about 100 are in self-quarantine.

and deaths in Germany has rapidly changed how the U.S. military does business in the country.

Twelve people in Germany have died and 4,838 have contracted the virus as of Sunday, the Robert Koch Institute said on its website, days after the World Health Organization said Europe was the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

At EUCOM headquarters, some members of staff are working from home to minimize the risk of COVID-19.

"USEUCOM is maximizing our employees' use of telework," said Lt. Cmdr. Joe Hontz, a EUCOM spokesman. "Regarding personnel who work with classified material, we have arrangements for these individuals to accomplish their individual assigned tasks without degradation to our readiness or posture," Hontz said.

At U.S. Africa Command headquarters, the situation is similar.

"Select AFRICOM personnel are currently authorized to telework, but we continue to meet our core mission objectives and support our allies and partners," Maj. Karl Wiest said in a statement.

Coalition in Afghanistan setting up quarantines

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S.-led international coalition in Afghanistan said there were no confirmed cases of coronavirus infections among coalition troops and personnel in the country as of Sunday, but quarantine areas have been established for those awaiting tests.

"Our military medical facilities in Afghanistan are prepared to implement appropriate quarantine or isolation measures, as appropriate, while awaiting test results," a statement from NATO's Resolute Support said.

Resolute Support declined to disclose how many personnel are in quarantine.

Those who believe they're at risk or have flu-like symptoms have "immediate access to on-base medical care," the statement said.

Personnel considered at high-risk of having the coronavirus who show symptoms will have saliva samples sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for further testing, the statement said.

U.S. lawmakers last week expressed concerns that troops in

Afghanistan were not properly protected from what has become a global pandemic.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., said troops from their state deployed to Afghanistan were experiencing symptoms of the disease but were denied testing.

The lawmakers' statements came amid rising concerns of a coronavirus outbreak in Afghanistan, which has 21 confirmed cases, Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the nation's health ministry, said Monday morning. The figure is up from 10 reported cases on the World Health Organization website Sunday.

The country borders Iran, which as of Monday has had 12,729 cases and 608 deaths, the WHO said. An estimated 15,000 Afghans returned from Iran a day, despite Kabul closing the border.

The New York Times reported Monday.

The bulk of U.S. troops are based in the country's east and south, hundreds of miles from the Iranian border.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Navy reports first COVID-19 case aboard a warship

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The Navy on Friday reported its first case of a sailor aboard a warship testing presumptive positive for the coronavirus, according to a Naval Surface Forces statement issued Sunday.

The sailor, assigned to the USS Boxer, works aboard the San Diego-based amphibious assault ship, but is quarantined at home "in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines," the statement said.

The Navy immediately noti-

fied those with whom the sailor said that he had close contact and instructed them to self-isolate in their homes. None of them are aboard the Boxer currently, according to the statement.

"Military health professionals are conducting a thorough contact investigation to determine whether any additional personnel were in close contact and possibly exposed," Naval Surface Forces said in the statement. "Depending on the results of that investigation, additional mitigations may be taken."

The sailor's test is considered presumptive positive until the



DANIEL RANKIN/U.S. Navy

The crew of the San Diego-based USS Boxer gather in the hangar bay to mark the amphibious assault ship's 25th anniversary Feb. 11. A sailor assigned to the Boxer tested presumptive positive for coronavirus.

CDC can confirm its validity.

"U.S. Navy ships conduct routine, daily cleanliness procedures geared toward health, wellness and the prevention of communicable disease spread," Naval Surface Forces said in the statement.

"USS Boxer is taking appropriate preventative measures and

conducting a thorough cleaning in accordance with specific guidance from the CDC and Navy-Marine Corps Public Health Center."

The test marks the first time a sailor aboard a Navy vessel has contracted the coronavirus, but not the first in the service.

The Boxer is pier-side at its homeport, Naval Base San Diego, where another sailor tested positive on Friday, according to media reports. That sailor was not attached to a ship.

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ARIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Pedestrians wear masks in Tokyo on Thursday.

City of Yokosuka sees first COVID-19 case, Navy base unaffected

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The city of Yokosuka has reported its first case of the coronavirus, city officials said in a statement Sunday.

The patient, a female nurse in her 70s, had gone to Egypt on a Nile River cruise from Feb. 24-26, according to the statement. The woman is not associated with Yokosuka Naval Base, base spokesman Randall Bacom told Stars and Stripes on Monday.

The woman returned to Japan on March 1 and symptoms began March 3 with abdominal pain and diarrhea, progressing to a cough and malaise on March 8,

according to a translation of the city statement. The woman tested positive for the virus Sunday.

The woman is one of 780 patients in Japan who have tested positive for the coronavirus as of Sunday, according to the World Health Organization. Of those patients, 22 have died. That number does not include the 697 people who tested positive aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship that underwent quarantine in Yokohama Bay last month.

As of Monday, no Navy personnel on Japan have tested positive for the coronavirus, according to Naval Forces Japan spokesman Marshall Smith.

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Iwakuni restricts visitors

BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — The commander has ordered restrictions on visitors to this installation in southwestern Japan, along with a ban on any of its U.S. residents staying overnight off base, as part of efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus.

The leave and liberty order posted Sunday on MCAS Iwakuni's official Facebook page applies to any base resident who falls under the U.S.-Japan status of forces agreement, namely U.S. service members, civilian Defense Department employees, contractors and their families.

"No overnight liberty or leave is authorized," said the statement by Col. Lance Lewis. "When you

go to sleep, it must be in your own bed. If you feel you need an exception to have overnight leave or leave outside of mainland Japan, engage your chain of command."

The order also bars visitors to the air station other than those coming from the U.S. It does not apply to residents of Japan.

"If you have visitors coming to the Air Station from somewhere OTHER THAN THE US, now is not the time to visit MCAS Iwakuni," the Facebook post said. "They will not be allowed on base. However, residents of Japan will still be allowed on base with proof of Japanese residency."

Proof of residency includes a visa that allows the holder to live in Japan, base spokesman 2nd Lt. Phillip Parker went Monday in an email to Stars and Stripes.

In the event that a visitor is al-

lowed on base by an exception, that person may be quarantined 14 days.

Likewise, residents of MCAS Iwakuni who are currently traveling outside of Japan will be medically screened upon their return before being allowed to leave their quarters, according to the order.

The restrictions will remain in place until at least May 11. Lewis also urged air station residents to avoid traveling outside the local area.

MCAS Iwakuni is home to approximately 15,000 people. It hosts Marine Air Group 12, the Navy's Carrier Air Wing 5 and Fleet Wing 31 of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

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DODEA schools on Guam to stay open as island records its first coronavirus case

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Defense Department schools on Guam will remain open "at this time," according to an announcement Monday by Joint Region Marianas.

The notice came a day after the island's governor, Lou Leon Guerrero, announced that three people had tested positive for the coronavirus, closed the public schools indefinitely and suspended all but essential operations by the U.S. island territory's government.

U.S. military families that choose to keep their children at home should contact their school's office for further guidance, ac-

cording to Monday's joint region press release.

The Department of Defense Education Activity on Guam "will take into account health and safety guidelines laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with any changes to be implemented as needed," according to the statement.

DODEA-Guam and Joint Region Marianas "will continue to coordinate closely with U.S. Naval Hospital Guam and our government of Guam partners to monitor the effects of [coronavirus] and will continue to assess whether school operations is in the best interest of all involved," the release stated.

While the DODEA schools will remain open, the athletic league in which Guam High School participates, the Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam, on Sunday suspended its activities through Saturday. The association scheduled a board meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

DODEA-Guam schools are considered part of DODEA-Pacific's Pacific South district, including Guam High School in Agaña Heights, McCool Elementary and Middle School on Naval Base Guam and Andersen elementary and middle schools on Andersen Air Force Base.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

White House sets new rules to curb spread

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House put in place new measures Monday to protect President Donald Trump and his staff during the coronavirus outbreak, including taking the temperature of anyone who enters the complex, including visitors and members of the press corps.

The steps expanded on screenings the White House began on Saturday for anyone who gets close to Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, who is leading the administration's response to the virus.

Officials greeted staff, reporters and camera workers by swiping their foreheads with a temporal thermometer. Only those with a reading of 99.6 degrees Fahrenheit or less were allowed entry into the complex.

"In order to keep the entire White House complex safe and healthy, beginning Monday morning, temperature checks will be conducted on everyone who enters campus," spokesman Judd Deere said.

The average body temperature

is about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, but it can range from a little lower to a little higher. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it considers a person to have a fever when he or she has a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Inside the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room, an orange sign taped to the back of many seats let reporters know that it was to remain unoccupied during briefings to ensure social distancing. The White House Correspondents' Association called on all members to stay home or work remotely if they could do so and to keep a bare level of staffing at the White House.

"We understand these restrictions are deeply disruptive to our members and their ability to do their jobs. But we are forced to take these steps to do our part to ensure that there is a healthy pool available to cover the president and inform the public during this critical time," the association's board said in an overnight email to members.

The White House on Saturday began taking the temperature of reporters attending a coronavirus



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, behind, arrives to speak during a briefing about the coronavirus in the White House on Sunday.

briefing led by Trump and Pence. One reporter with a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit was denied entry to the briefing room. Temperature checks were conducted before Sunday's briefing, too.

Other precautionary steps the White House is taking: pausing its internship and volunteer programs, canceling public tours and canceling large events through the end of March. The White House also has closed its Navy Mess Dining Room, where many staffers get daily meals.

To limit the number of jour-

nalists in the briefing room, television networks agreed to pool camera coverage so that just one crew would cover the briefings and share footage with all the other networks, instead of having multiple crews covering the same event.

That system was in place for Sunday's coronavirus briefing.

"This is an important first step for us, but we all agree more action is needed to protect our members and the integrity of the press pool covering the president," the White House Correspondents' Association board said.

2 brothers donate items after failed resale plan

Associated Press

Thousands of bottles of hand sanitizer and packs of antibacterial wipes and medical masks were donated after a failed attempt by two Tennessee brothers to resell them for profit during the U.S. coronavirus outbreak.

Boxes were taken Sunday from a storage unit and the home of Matt Colvin of Hixson, Tenn., news outlets reported. The items, including 17,700 bottles of hand sanitizer, were donated to a local church and some supplies will head to Kentucky where Colvin had cleared store shelves.

Colvin and his brother, Noah Colvin, had cleared store shelves of the items before online retailer Amazon stopped their sales and the state attorney general sent a cease-and-desist letter.

The purchases were first featured in a story in The New York Times in which the brothers drove to stores supplying up supplies around Chattanooga, Tennessee, on March 1, the day after the first U.S. coronavirus death was announced.

Noah Colvin then drove 1,300 miles over three days across Tennessee and Kentucky, filling a rented truck while his brother stayed home preparing for more supplies he had ordered.

Matt Colvin said he posted 300 bottles of hand sanitizer for sale on Amazon, between \$8 and \$70 each and immediately sold them all.

"It was crazy money," he told the newspaper.

The next day, Amazon pulled Matt Colvin's items along with thousands of other similar listings, citing price gouging. Some of the sellers behind the listings were suspended, while eBay soon banned U.S. sales of sanitizers and masks.

Matt Colvin had turned Amazon sales into a six-figure career starting in 2015, advertising Nike shoes and pet toys and following popular trends.

In early February, when the coronavirus was spreading in China, the former Air Force technical sergeant bought 2,000 "pandemic packs" from a local liquidation firm that were leftover from a defunct company. He bought them at \$3.50 per pack and resold them at a substantial profit.

When public demand for sanitizers and wipes started to skyrocket, Matt and Noah Colvin went to work buying them up.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee declared a state of emergency on Thursday. Part of that included the triggering of an anti-price gouging law.

"We will not tolerate price gouging in this time of exceptional need, and we will take aggressive action to stop it," Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III said in a statement Saturday night.

Trump ask Americans to stop hoarding supplies

By HOPE YEN
AND AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is calling on people to stop hoarding groceries and other supplies as one of the nation's most senior public health officials urged Americans to act with more urgency to protect themselves and others against the coronavirus. Dr. Anthony Fauci said he would like to see aggressive measures such as a 14-day national shutdown.

"You don't have to buy so much," Trump said at a news conference. "Take it easy. Just relax."

Trump assured Americans, after speaking with leading grocery chain executives, that grocers would remain open and that the supply chain remained healthy. Speaking at the same White House news conference, Vice President Mike Pence urged Americans to buy only the groceries they need for the week ahead.

The comments from the president came Sunday after the government's top infectious disease



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

A notice limiting only 3 packages of toilet paper per customer is displayed on picked bare shelves at a local grocery store in Burbank, Calif., on Saturday.

expert said he would like to see Americans hunker down, even more, to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Still, Fauci said travel restrictions within the United States, such as to and from hard-hit Washington state and California, probably would not be needed anytime soon.

Officials in Washington were preparing for what was expected to be a long-haul effort to try to stem the virus that has upended life around the globe.

"The worst is yet ahead for us," Fauci said. "It is how we respond to that challenge that is going to determine what the ultimate endpoint is going to be."

Trump, on the other hand, offered an optimistic outlook even as officials said the infection rate in the U.S. was surging. The president acknowledged that the virus was "very contagious" but asserted that his administration had "tremendous control" over the spread of the disease.

Pence said that he and the president would brief the nation's governors on Monday "specifically about our expanding testing to the American people."

Fauci, the public face of the administration's messaging during a round of morning TV interviews, said the country should do as much as "we possibly could," even if officials were criticized for overreacting. He said he raised the issue of measures such as a shutdown with the Trump administration and said officials were open to his ideas.

"We think Americans should be prepared that they are going to have to hunker down significantly more than we as a country are doing," said Fauci, who heads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

1st shot of experimental vaccine given

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AND CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — U.S. researchers gave the first shot to the first person in a test of an experimental coronavirus vaccine Monday — leading off a worldwide hunt for protection even as the pandemic surges.

With a careful jab in a healthy volunteer's arm, scientists at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Research Institute in Seattle begin an anxiously awaited first-stage study of a potential COVID-19 vaccine developed in record time after the new virus exploded from China and fanned across the globe.

"We're team coronavirus now," Kaiser Permanente study leader Dr. Lisa Jackson said on the eve of the experiment. "Everyone wants to do what they can in this emergency."

The Associated Press observed as the study's first participant, an operations manager at a small tech company, received the injection inside an exam room. Several others were next in line for a test that will ultimately give 45 volunteers two doses, a month apart.

"We all feel so helpless. This is an amazing opportunity for me to do something," said Jennifer



TED S. WARREN/AP

Dr. Lisa Jackson, a senior investigator at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute, is leading the first-stage safety study clinical trial of a potential vaccine for COVID-19, which was given to the first volunteer in the study by injection Monday.

Haller, 43, of Seattle.

She's the mother of two teenagers and "they think it's cool" that she's taking part in the study.

Monday's milestone marked just the beginning of a series of studies in people needed to prove whether the shots are safe and

could work. Even if the research goes well, a vaccine wouldn't be available for widespread use for 12 to 18 months, said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. That's still important if the virus becomes a long-term threat.

This vaccine candidate, code-named mRNA-1273, was developed by the NIH and Massachusetts-based biotechnology company Moderna Inc. There's no chance participants could get infected from the shots because they don't contain the coronavirus itself.

rus itself.

It's not the only potential vaccine in the pipeline. Dozens of research groups around the world are racing to create a vaccine against COVID-19. Another candidate, made by Inovio Pharmaceuticals, is expected to begin its own safety study — in the U.S., China and South Korea — next month.

Starting what scientists call a first-in-humans study is a momentous occasion for scientists, but Jackson described her team's mood as "subdued." They've been working round-the-clock readying the research in a part of the U.S. struck early and hard by the virus.

Still, "going from not even knowing that this virus was out there ... to have any vaccine" in testing in about two months is unprecedented, Jackson said.

Some of the study's carefully chosen healthy volunteers, ages 18 to 55, will get higher dosages than others to test how strong the inoculations should be. Scientists will check for any side effects and draw blood samples to test if the vaccine is revving up the immune system, looking for encouraging clues like the NIH earlier found in vaccinated mice.

States turn to cash reserves as outbreak puts strain on budget

By DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — States across the U.S. are allocating hundreds of millions of dollars to respond to the coronavirus, even as the U.S. government prepares to send billions more their way.

Many states have built up sizable stockpiles in their "rainy day" funds during several robust years of tax collections. Some governors and state lawmakers now are tapping into those savings for emergency expenses. Others are looking to set aside even more in reserve, fearing the economic uncertainties stemming from the coronavirus could send tax revenues into a tailspin.

"Forget the closure on Broadway — the loss of revenue to the state government, right now, is incalculable," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat.

He pulled the curtain on Broadway theaters this past week while banning gatherings of 500 or more people.

President Donald Trump said Friday that he would free up as much as \$50 billion for state and local governments as he declared the virus pandemic a national

emergency. Many governors also have declared emergencies, giving themselves greater flexibility to spend money and waive regulations as needed.

"All the resources we can have on hand — to make sure if things get worse — we want," said Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, while announcing a state of emergency just hours after the president did so.

State and local public health agencies have been on the front lines of the response, monitoring and testing those suspected of having the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease. Costs are mounting for staff time and medical supplies.

But states also are bracing for a potential ripple effect on their revenues. The cancellation of major sporting and entertainment events could mean less tax revenue from tourists and local residents. Directives to work and study at home instead of at offices, schools and colleges could mean less revenue from fuel taxes and public transit fares. And if some employees can't go to work, that could put a damper on state income and withholding taxes while driving up spending for public welfare programs



JOHN MINICHELLO/AP

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference at a COVID-19 coronavirus infection testing facility at Glen Island Park on Friday in New Rochelle, N.Y.

such as unemployment insurance and state Medicaid health care programs.

"It definitely has the potential to have a significant impact on state budgets — both on the spending and revenue side," said Brian Sigriz, director of state fiscal studies at the National Association of State Budget Officers. "One positive, if you want to use that word, is that this is coming after a period where states have seen strong revenue growth for the past couple of years ... and have been able to increase the size of their rainy day funds and reserves," Sigriz added.

Across all states last fiscal year, the median rainy day fund balance equaled 7.6% of general fund expenditures. That's a re-

cord high that was way up from a 1.6% share of general fund expenditures in the 2010 fiscal year, according to the budget officers group.

In Washington state, which has seen the greatest number of U.S. coronavirus deaths, lawmakers approved a budget that draws \$200 million from the state's rainy day fund. Of that, \$175 million is to go to the public health system with the rest going to a special unemployment fund for affected businesses and workers.

"The urgency of this is clear, the demand for action is clear, and we'll stretch this as far as we can and we'll find some way to finance more if we have to," said Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat.

High court postpones arguments

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court announced Monday that it is postponing arguments for late March and early April because of the coronavirus, including flights over subpoenas for President Donald Trump's financial records.

Other business will go on as planned, including the justices' private conference on Friday and the release of orders in a week's time. Some justices may participate by telephone, the court said in a statement.

Six of the nine justices are 65 and older, at higher risk of getting very sick from the illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 87, and Stephen Breyer, 81, are the oldest members of the court.

There is no new date set for the postponed arguments. The building has been closed to the public since last week.

The only other time the 85-year-old court building was closed for arguments was in October 2001, when anthrax was detected in the court mailroom.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Pentagon travel policy hits South Korea hard

By CATLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Almost 8,000 service members and their families moving to or leaving South Korea will be impacted by the 60-day travel restrictions, according to an estimate by U.S. Forces Korea.

"We're going to have a huge competing with all the inbounds and normal outbounds for the months of May and June," Gen. Robert Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, told reporters at the Pentagon during a video teleconference Friday morning.

The travel policy, which starts Friday and is expected to end in mid-May, stops travel and military moves in locations that have widespread outbreaks of the coronavirus, which are categorized as Level 3 and includes South Korea.

The Army has established a 24-hour hotline for service members and families affected by the ban on military moves to countries categorized as Level 2 and 3. The number is 1-888-276-9472 and additional resources can be found at www.army.mil/covid-19. Level 2 locations are places with a sustained community spread and Level 3 locations have widespread outbreaks.

During the 60 days, service members and families who would have left for their next duty station will be stuck in South Korea and must wait to leave for their next assignment until after the travel ban lifts, according to Abrams. This affects not just people who are leaving the country, but others who are moving there to replace them. The backlog could potentially affect when household goods are shipped, military

housing or child care availability, service members who need to move for military courses or are expected to take up a command position at their next unit.

The military has its main moving season starting in the spring and ending in the fall. About 400,000 service members, Defense Department civilians, and their families are moved each year, with 40% of moves happening between May 15 and Aug. 31, according to the Pentagon.

There are 28,500 service members stationed in South Korea.

Starting April 1, the command is also facing a furlough of several thousand South Korean nationals who support the U.S. mission on the Peninsula, if negotiations for a new Special Measures Agreement falls through.

The contributions in the agreement pays for the salaries of more than 9,000 South Korean employees, logistical support and construction projects. Most of the contributions go back into the South Korean economy. The United States wants South Korea to pay up to \$5 billion per year, a fivefold increase, to offset the costs of having Americans in the country supporting its defense. The furlough will not impact people who support life, health, safety or minimum readiness for U.S. forces in Korea, Abrams said.

Abrams also said he is speaking with the Pentagon about getting additional resources and retaining some South Korean nationals to help mitigate the impact of the ban. He did not say what specific additional resources he was asking for or any specific strategy they are beginning to implement to address the backlog.

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Oregon man is first VA patient to die from virus

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A 70-year-old man was the first patient at a Department of Veterans Affairs facility — and the first person in Oregon — to die from coronavirus, according to the VA and the Oregon Health Authority.

The veteran, whose name has not been publicly released, died Saturday at the VA Portland Health Care System. He had underlying health conditions and had tested positive for coronavirus March 10, the Oregon Health Authority said. He had no known contact to anyone with coronavirus and had not traveled to another country.

"While we knew we would arrive at this day at some point, it doesn't lessen the impact," said Patrick Allen, director of the Oregon Health Authority. "Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with the family of this indi-

vidual who honorably served his country."

The VA has conducted slightly more than 100 tests for coronavirus nationwide, according to information posted to its public website. As of Monday afternoon, the agency reported 30 positive cases across its health care system.

Of the positive cases, five are in Seattle, four in New Orleans, two in Denver, two in Atlanta, two in Arizona, two in Maine, two in Las Vegas, two in Sioux Falls, S.D., and two in Bronx, N.Y. Others are in Palo Alto, Calif.; Portland; Fresno, Calif.; San Francisco; White River Junction, Vt.; Cleveland, and Montrose, N.Y.

The VA health care system treats more than 9 million veterans, many of whom are older and have underlying health conditions that could put them at greater risk for the virus.

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ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump arrives to speak, with Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, center, and Adm. Brett Giroir, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health, during a briefing about the coronavirus Sunday.

Foreign deceit stoking fears, US officials say

By ZEKE MILLER AND COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is alleging that a foreign disinformation campaign is underway aimed at spreading fear in the country amid the coronavirus pandemic, three U.S. officials said Monday.

On Sunday, federal officials began confronting what they said was a deliberate effort by a foreign entity to sow fears of a nationwide quarantine amid the virus outbreak. Agencies took coordinated action Sunday evening to deny that any such plans were put in place, as they tried to calm a nation already on edge by disruptions to daily life caused by the virus.

The three U.S. officials did not name the foreign entity they believe to be responsible. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

"Text message rumors of a national quarantine are FAKE," tweeted the National Security Council Sunday night. "There is no national lockdown." The NSC encouraged Americans to follow official government guidance.

States and municipalities have banned large public gatherings, closed schools, bars and restaurants, and advised people to exercise so-called social distancing to slow the spread of the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday issued new guidance recommending against indoor gatherings larger than 50 people for the next eight weeks.

The nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said Sunday that Americans should aim to severely curtail leaving their homes, but did not indicate the government would order such a move. He was specifically questioned on whether he'd like to see a "national lockdown."

"I think Americans should be prepared that they are going to have to hunker down significantly more than we as a country are doing," said Fauci, a member of the White House task force on combating the spread of coronavirus. He heads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

Rumors about the government's response to the spreading virus have circulated online for weeks,

prompting authorities in several states to urge residents to seek out trusted sources in government and news.

On Sunday, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker said he's been asked about the rumors by "senior leaders in business, health care, politics."

"I've had community leaders and elected officials all text me or call me and say 'I understand on Monday you're basically going to order everybody to shelter in place for two weeks. The message has been exactly the same.'"

"We have no plans to do that."

He said it shows the need for residents to find trusted sources of news and information, such as legitimate news organizations or public health authorities.

"There's so much information out there," Baker said. "Some of which is legit, but a lot of it is wild speculation."

Texts and posts suggesting Texas, Washington and New York states would be shutting down to prevent the spread of the coronavirus escalated with screenshots of text messages circulating online that claimed that within 48 to 72 hours Trump would place the U.S. under a two-week quarantine.

New York City officials last week debunked a claim passed around in text messages claiming the city's Metro North trains, connecting commuters from the suburbs to the city, would be shut down and that other train service would be limited. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee also said claims that the state would soon be under quarantine were untrue.

Andy Carvin, a senior fellow at The Atlantic Council, a Washington based think tank, said the rumors circulating via text are the toughest to trace because they often percolate from private messaging platforms and texts, then are copy-and-pasted into public social media posts.

"There's no way to know if these are organic or intentional, unfortunately, because the sentiment contained in them is so plausible that they could very easily be borne out of homegrown rumors," he said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus.

NATION

Primaries give Biden chance to reach Latinos

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

PHOENIX — In Joe Biden's pursuit of the Democratic presidential nomination, he's run repeatedly into a wall in the West, where Bernie Sanders' strength among Latinos propelled his campaign even as he struggled with other groups.

Tuesday's primaries in Arizona and Florida offer Biden a chance to show he can make up ground with Latinos, a crucial group of voters he'll need in his corner to defeat President Donald Trump.

Biden is playing catch-up when it comes to engaging Latino voters and is weighed down by anger over the high rate of deportations during the Obama administration, which left scars for many immigrants and their families.

"We need more. And we need commitments as we move into the general," said Regina Romero, a Democrat who recently took office as Tucson's first Latina mayor. Biden can win over reluctant Latinos with a bold and progressive stance on immigration, she said.

"I hope that he doesn't eat up the lie that he has to be more conservative on the immigration issue," said Romero, who hasn't endorsed Biden or Sanders since her favored candidate, Elizabeth Warren, dropped out. "We shouldn't be afraid of an issue that is so important for Latino voters, wading it down and not have politicians who Latinos can get excited about."

Arizona and Florida are both likely to be battlegrounds in November. In Arizona, one in three residents is Latino; in Florida, it's one in four.

Sanders' strength with Latinos

helped him to an overwhelming victory in the Nevada caucuses and contributed to his Super Tuesday wins in California and Colorado on a night when Biden built a formidable lead in delegates.

But Biden's success is a recent phenomenon. His slow start amid a crowded Democratic field left him with a shoestring budget and virtually no campaign infrastructure beyond the early states, which limited his ability to reach out to Latinos on the ground or air Spanish-language television ads. That's changed now that his burst of success since South Carolina made him the overwhelming favorite for the nomination and helped his fundraising.

"He definitely needs to work it, and he needs to up his game and engage with Latino voters," said Janet Murguía, president and CEO of UnidosUS, the Latino advocacy group formerly known as National Council of La Raza. Tuesday could make for "a big reset" for Biden, she said.

Biden has had to answer for the big spike in deportations during Barack Obama's presidency, when Biden served as vice president.

Early in his administration, Obama aggressively increased efforts to deport immigrants living in the country illegally. He'd hoped to convince members of Congress and the public that he was serious about border security in order to secure a comprehensive immigration reform bill that would extend legal status to millions of people living in the U.S. without authorization. The reform bill never passed, but the deportations disrupted families, drove fear in immigrant communities and left deep wounds.

U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego, who represents largely Latino areas



JOHN LOCHER/AP

A Mariachi band waits to perform before a campaign event with former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in Las Vegas.

of Phoenix and endorsed Biden this month, predicted that Latino voters will come around. But he said that Biden could help himself by talking up his own progressive proposals, such as a \$15 minimum wage and a public option for health insurance. He should also talk about the Obama health care law that extended coverage to millions of Americans, including a disproportionate number of

Latinos, Gallego said.

Latinos in the West, where Sanders has done so well, are mainly of Mexican and Central American descent. It's a different story in Florida, where Cubans and Puerto Ricans predominate, making the state a potential bright spot for Biden. Sanders' self-identity as a democratic socialist and his recent defense of certain aspects of Cuban dictator

Fidel Castro's regime are a liability with Cuban voters.

"Miami is a melting pot for people from all over," said Jose Javier Rodriguez, a Democratic state senator from Miami who was an early Biden supporter. "Biden's appeal hits a cross-section in ways that Sen. Sanders does not."

Debate: Biden, Sanders clash on health care, special interests and turnout

FROM FRONT PAGE

"This is bigger than any one of us — this calls for a national rallying for one another," Biden said.

Indeed, the stakes in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination have shifted dramatically since Biden and Sanders last debated less than three weeks ago — as have the contours of the contest. After a sluggish start to the primary season, Biden has surged to the front of the field, drawing overwhelming support from black voters and consolidating the backing of several more moderate rivals who have dropped out of the race. He's also actively courting the endorsement of Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a liberal ally of Sanders who dropped out without throwing her support behind him.

The former vice president appeared determined throughout Sunday's contest to keep his focus on the general election, making direct overtures to Sanders' loyal supporters and courting the first time to select a woman as his running mate if he becomes

the Democratic nominee. After Biden's announcement, Sanders said he would "in all likelihood" do the same.

For Sanders, the reality is that his path to the nomination is rapidly shrinking, and he faces the prospect of more stinging defeats in the four states that vote on Tuesday. Still, he appeared determined to draw sharp contrasts with Biden throughout the debate, challenging him aggressively on the Iraq War and free trade deals. He argued that "I have taken on every special interest that's out there," adding, "That's a very different record than Joe's."

Though Sunday's debate was the first one-on-one contest of the Democratic primary, Biden and Sanders have been the leaders of their party's ideological poles throughout the yearlong campaign. Their prescriptions for addressing the coronavirus outbreak highlighted the contrasting approaches they are pledging to bring to the White House.

Biden, a centrist who backed the 2008 bailout of the financial industry during the recession,

warned that another government-backed rescue plan may be needed in the coming months to shore up the economy. Sanders, a fierce liberal critic of Wall Street, opposed the earlier bailout and said that it would be a mistake to take a similar approach now. Instead, he suggested a tax on the wealthiest Americans.

The Vermont senator also repeatedly pushed questions regarding the coronavirus toward a now-familiar debate between him and Biden over health care. Sanders argued that the troublesome shortages in coronavirus tests and anxiety over the preparedness of the nation's health care system to deal with an impending increase in patients highlight why the U.S. should move to the government-run, "Medicare For All" system he has long championed.

"One of the reasons that we are unprepared, and have been unprepared, is we don't have a system," Sanders said. "We've got thousands of private insurance plans. That is not a system that is prepared to provide health care to all people in a good year, with-

out the epidemic."

Biden, who supports adding a public insurance option to the current system, argued that a pandemic was not a moment to attempt to push through an overhaul of the American health insurance system, a politically arduous endeavor.

"This is a crisis," Biden said. "We're at war with a virus. It has nothing to do with copays or anything."

As the debate opened, Biden and Sanders skipped a handshake, greeting each other instead with an elbow bump. They took their positions at podiums spaced 6 feet apart in keeping with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for limiting the spread of the novel coronavirus. They addressed the nation, and each other, from a television studio in Washington without an in-person audience.

The senator found himself on the defensive at several points in the night, including about favorable comments he's made about authoritarian regimes in Cuba and other Latin American

countries — remarks that could hurt Sanders in Tuesday's key primary in Florida, a state with a large population of residents from those nations. Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, said that while he condemns authoritarianism in Cuba and elsewhere, it's possible to recognize positive changes made by their governments.

"To simply say that nothing ever done by any of those administrations had a positive impact on their people would, I think, be incorrect," Sanders said.

Sanders also responded to criticism about his inability to draw support from black voters by raising questions about whether Biden can rally young people and new voters, saying that he has doubts about whether Biden can generate "energy and excitement and voter turnout." Still, he vowed to mobilize behind Biden if he ends up becoming the party's nominee.

"If I lose this thing, Joe wins, Joe, I will be there for you," Sanders said.

NATION

Church abuse case retrial postponed for virus worries

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The retrial of the only church official who has ever gone to prison in the Roman Catholic Church sex abuse scandal was delayed Monday because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The retrial of Monsignor William Lynn, the longtime secretary for clergy in the Philadelphia archdiocese, had been to start Monday in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court but was put on hold until January amid court shutdowns meant to slow the spread of the pandemic.

After an appeals court found his sweeping 2012 conspiracy trial flawed and his conviction was twice overturned, Lynn, 69, now faces only a single child endangerment count. Prosecutors contend he endangered children by transferring a known predatory priest to their parish without warning in 1993.

The landmark case now looks nothing like the gut-wrenching, four-month trial that unearthed the church's "secret archives," drew more than 20 haunted victims to the witness stand and led the judge to conclude that Lynn allowed "monsters in clerical garb ... to destroy the souls of children."

Next time, a new judge plans to steer clear of the broader priest-abuse crisis that has cost the church an estimated \$3 billion or more, and plunged dioceses around the world into bankruptcy and scandal.

"We're not bringing in the so-called or alleged 'sins of the Catholic Church,'" Judge Gwendolyn Bright said at a pretrial hearing Wednesday.

It's not even clear the jury will

hear from a single victim when the case resumes. That's because the only accuser whose allegation falls within the statute of limitations — a policeman's son dubbed "Billy Doe" in court files — is an uncertain witness at best, whose credibility has long been challenged. Prosecutors do not plan to call him, although Bright said she may force their hand.

Instead, Assistant District Attorney Patrick Blessington plans to argue that Lynn endangered children simply by "placing a bomb" in their parish, whether or not it went off.

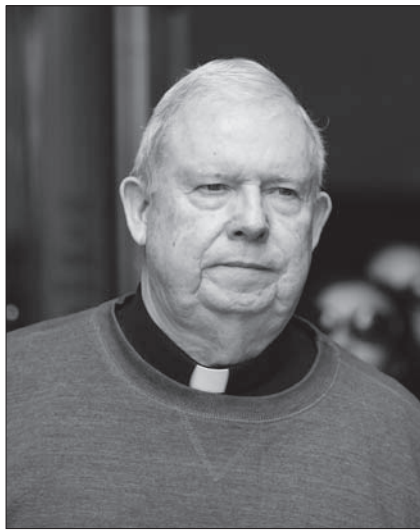
"I suspect they're not calling him because they don't believe he has any credibility," Lynn's lawyer, Thomas Bergstrom, argued last week, saying the case should be thrown out.

Lynn served 33 months in state prison, of an initial three- to six-year sentence. Neither of the Philadelphia cardinals he served — including the powerful Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, who aggressively fought two grand jury investigations and died just before Lynn's first trial — were charged.

It was Lynn's job at the archdiocese to recommend priest assignments from 1992 to 2004 and to review decades of complaints when the abuse scandal broke.

At trial, he said he compiled a list of 35 active priests who were likely "predators," including one named Edward Avery, in hopes Bevilacqua would act. Instead, he testified, the cardinal ordered the list destroyed, though a copy survived.

Bevilacqua, overruling Lynn's suggestion of a different parish, placed Avery at St. Jerome's in northeast Philadelphia in 1993. The policeman's son would later



MATT ROUQUE/AP

Monsignor William Lynn leaves the center for criminal justice Wednesday in Philadelphia. Lynn was sentenced for his handling of priest sex-abuse complaints and was set to be retried Monday before the hearing was delayed because of coronavirus concerns.

say he was molested there in about 1999, by Avery, another priest and his sixth-grade teacher.

"I did not intend any harm to come to (Avery's victim). The fact is, my best was not good enough to stop that harm," Lynn testified in 2012.

"Doe," who now lives in Florida, received a civil settlement from the Philadelphia archdiocese. Spokesman Ken Gavin said the archdiocese "looks forward to a final resolution" of the case.

Avery, who took a plea offer before trial, later conceded that he had engaged in "horseplay" with young boys, but insisted that he never abused "Billy Doe." And a city detective on the case later signed an affidavit saying the evidence did not support the former altar boy's accusations.

Zach Hiner, the executive di-

rector of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said it was stunning that only Lynn and former Kansas City Bishop Robert Finn have faced charges over what some investigators call "the playbook" long used by dioceses around the country: hiding complaints in locked files, shuffling problem priests, paying victims confidential settlements and stonewalling police.

Finn received probation for a misdemeanor plea of failing to report a priest engaged in child pornography to authorities.

"It's not about getting vengeance and a long prison sentence. It's affirming that this is a crime and it did put children at risk," Hiner said Thursday. "And it can't happen again."

US' health department hacked amid virus notice

By SHIRA STEIN
AND JENNIFER JACOBS
Bloomberg

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department suffered a cyberattack on its computer system Sunday night during the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic, according to three people familiar with the matter.

The attack appears to have been intended to slow the agency's systems down, but didn't do so in any meaningful way, said the people, who asked for anonymity to discuss an incident that was not public.

The National Security Council tweeted just before midnight: "Text message rumors of a national #quarantine are FAKE. There is no national lockdown. @CDCgov has and will continue to post the latest guidance on #COVID19."

The NSC tweet was related to the hacking and the release of disinformation, according to one of the people. The government realized Sunday that there had been a cyber intrusion and false information was circulating.

The tweet was in part meant to address the hacking, which involved multiple incidents. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and other Trump administration officials are aware of the incident, one of the people said.

It doesn't appear that the hackers took any data from the systems, one of the people said. HHS officials assume that it was a hostile foreign actor, but there is no definitive proof at this time.

U.S. officials have not yet confirmed who was behind the attack, according to a U.S. official. The hack involved overloading the HHS servers with millions of hits over several hours.

Paul Nakasone, who leads the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, is looking into the situation, one of the people said.



NATHAN PAPES, THE SPRINGFIELD (MO.) NEWS-LEADER/AP

Police cars surround a Kum & Go gas station on East Chestnut Expressway in Springfield, Mo., after a shooting late Sunday.

5 shot and killed, including officer and gunman, in Missouri shooting

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Five people including a police officer and a gunman have died in a shooting at a Missouri gas station after the gunman went inside and opened fire, police said Monday.

The dead also includes three citizens, Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams announced Monday, and an officer was injured along with another citizen.

Williams said police received reports of "multiple shooting calls throughout the city" late Sunday. As officers were responding, witnesses reported a vehicle crashed

into a Kum & Go gas station and convenience store, and the gunman ran inside and began shooting customers and employees, Williams said. The first two officers who arrived were shot.

Other officers pulled the injured officers from the store and went inside, finding three citizens dead. The gunman was also found dead, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot, Williams said.

Officer Christopher Walsh died at a hospital, Williams said. He was with the Springfield police for 3½ years, was an Army veteran and was active in the Army

reserves. Officer Josiah Overton, whose injuries are not life-threatening, has been with Springfield police for two years, he said.

"Both officers showed significant bravery and were heroic in their actions," Williams said.

The identities of the other victims were been released pending notification of relatives.

Police are still working to determine a motive for the shooting, the chief said.

"We're still investigating multiple crime scenes and dealing with grieving the loss of one of our own," he said.

NATION

FISA process often finds unrelated crimes

Defendants charged with routine violations derived from foreign intelligence-gathering

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The case against Nassef Sami Daher and Kamel Mohammad Rammal, Michigan men accused of food stamp fraud, hardly seemed exceptional. But the tool that agents used to investigate them was extraordinary: a secretive surveillance process intended to identify potential spies and terrorists.

It means that the men, unlike most criminal defendants, were never shown the evidence authorities used to begin investigating them or the information that the Justice Department presented to obtain the original warrant.

The case is among the prosecutions that relied on the same surveillance powers, known by the acronym FISA, that law enforcement officials acknowledge were misused in the Russia investigation. Those errors have prompted a reckoning inside the FBI and debate in Congress about new privacy safeguards.

The attention given to FISA has also cast a spotlight on cases such as the Michigan one, where surveillance tools used to investigate foreign intelligence threats end up leading to prosecutions for commonplace, domestic crimes.

The department says it can't turn a blind eye to crimes it uncovers when scrutinizing someone for national security purposes, even if those offenses weren't the initial basis of the investigation. In recent years, inquiries that began with FISA warrants have yielded charges including child pornography and wire fraud.

Current and former officials say just because a FISA warrant produces charges other than national security ones doesn't mean the target is no longer considered a national security threat. Sometimes, particularly when disrupting a terrorist plot, prosecutors may opt to charge other crimes they find evidence of or fear of tipping the target's conspirators to the investigation's purpose.

Critics say building routine cases on evidence derived from FISA warrants undermines protections against unreasonable searches. Though some judges have required some government courts has prohibited the practice. The Supreme Court has never confronted the specific issue.

Patrick Toomey, director of the American Civil Liberties Union national security project, noted that the Fourth Amendment requires the government to describe the type of criminal evidence it's seeking before conducting a search. Defense lawyers and civil libertarians say if the original surveillance application is riddled with errors, any resulting prosecution is tainted.

Review is not the types of broad searches for foreign intelligence information flips the

Fourth Amendment on its head when the government repurposes those searches for domestic criminal prosecutions," Toomey said.

That's what happened with Daher and Rammal. They were charged in August 2018 with defrauding the food stamp program in a scheme investigators say was based at a Detroit service station.

The next month, prosecutors told them the government intended to use information collected under a warrant approved by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which authorizes law enforcement to eavesdrop on people it has probable cause to believe are agents of a foreign power.

That meant that while Daher and Rammal could see government evidence about the fraud allegations, they were denied details about the reasons for the national security surveillance.

Though the Justice Department has refused to disclose the application it submitted to the court, its filings make clear the case was part of a broader terrorism-related inquiry. Prosecutors produced a statement from Attorney General William Barr saying the FISA materials held classified information about counterterrorism and that disclosing them would harm national security.

Rammal, who was raised in Lebanon, has since pleaded guilty to fraud. Daher has fought unsuccessfully to see the FISA information and is awaiting trial. His lawyers contend Daher, a Muslim, was targeted in a post-Sept. 11 "mob mentality." Neither men faced terrorist-related charges.

"Sami is a nerd with a big ego and imagination, but, he is not a terrorist or a National Security threat," Daher's lawyers wrote.

The Justice Department says the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act permits law enforcement to use evidence from FISA warrants for domestic criminal prosecutions and that it makes obvious sense to do so.

"Congress intended that you not ignore evidence of another crime while you're doing foreign intelligence surveillance, and FISA itself reflects this," Assistant Attorney General John Demers, the department's top legal counsel, said in a statement. "It's nonsensical to ignore evidence of a crime that we've lawfully gathered."

Nonetheless, defense lawyers see the department as straying beyond FISA's original intent.

Critics have long complained about the one-sided nature of the process. Targets of the surveillance, for instance, are consistently denied copies of FISA applications, making it hard for them to know the accuracy of the information given to the court, to learn why precisely prosecutors considered them a national security concern. Targets can contest the legitimacy of the search.



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Keith Gartenlaub, near his home in Irvine, Calif., on March 11. A former Boeing engineer, Gartenlaub was targeted with a FISA warrant because agents suspected him of having provided the designs of a C-17 to China, a charge he denies. He was convicted on child pornography counts.

‘Congress intended that you not ignore evidence of another crime while you’re doing foreign intelligence surveillance, and FISA itself reflects this.’

John Demers
U.S. assistant attorney general

In the Russia case, details of the FISA warrant used on ex-Trump campaign adviser Carter Page became known only because of the highly partisan congressional fight over special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. Later, the Justice Department inspector general found that the FBI omitted from its applications key information that should have been presented to the court.

The FBI has since announced steps aimed at ensuring that its wiretap applications are more accurate. The House passed legislation Wednesday containing new privacy protections. The Senate left for the week without approving it, allowing certain FISA provisions to temporarily expire.

Most FISA warrants don't result in criminal prosecution. Page, for instance, has denied wrongdoing and was never charged. Those that do generally involve national security crimes, such as the recent espionage case against a military contractor accused of disclosing classified information.

But other recent FISA warrants have been incorporated into prosecutions with no national security charges.

In California, Abdallah Osselly,

a naturalized citizen from Lebanon, was charged by national security prosecutors in 2018 with lying in bank documents and on his naturalization petition.

Prosecutors disclosed surveillance recordings that defense lawyers say did not come from conventional criminal wiretaps, though the government has refused to confirm or deny if it obtained a FISA warrant. The Justice Department says none of the evidence it's using at trial derived from FISA. Defense lawyers have nonetheless fought to see the original application.

Last August, prosecutors notified a think tank fellow and ex-State Department employee they had just arrested that they intended to use evidence from a FISA warrant in his mortgage fraud case.

The man, David Tawei An, was investigated for his ties to Taiwanese officials when FBI agents encountered what they said was evidence he had submitted a false loan application. An ultimately pleaded guilty last month fraud.

One prominent case concerns a former Boeing engineer, Keith Gartenlaub, who was targeted with a FISA warrant because

agents suspected him of having supplied the designs of a C-17 transport plane to China. Agents using that warrant to search his computer files said they found images of child pornography. Prosecutors charged him with that but never publicly accused him of spying for China, something he adamantly denies.

He was convicted on the child pornography counts and recently released after nearly two years in custody, though he says the images weren't his and were on an old computer multiple people who came in and out of his California beach house had access to.

"FISA has become a way to circumvent due process in the legal system," Gartenlaub said. "Anybody in my situation cannot defend themselves because you can't see anything."

A San Francisco-based federal appeals court upheld his conviction. But it also said a prosecution for "completely unrelated crimes discovered as a result of rummaging" through a computer "comes perilously close to the exact abuses against which the Fourth Amendment was designed to protect."

The ACLU sees an opening to narrow the government's powers, saying courts are only now starting to grapple with the fairness of national security searches being used in ordinary prosecutions.

"These searches," Toomey said in an email, "upend bedrock constitutional protections."

FACES

Celebrities beg people to stay indoors for now

By EMILY YAHN
The Washington Post

On Sunday, videos and photos of packed bars, restaurants and nightclubs taken over the weekend flooded the Internet, despite public health experts urging social distancing amid the coronavirus outbreak. Shortly afterward, Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande, two of the most-followed people on social media, begged everyone to stay indoors as much as possible.

"Guys — I follow you online and I love you guys so much and need to express my concern that things aren't being taken seriously enough right now," Swift wrote to her 128 million followers in an Instagram story. "I'm seeing a lot of get togethers and hangs and parties still happening. This is the time to cancel plans, actually truly isolate as much as you can, and don't assume that because you don't feel sick that you aren't possibly passing something on to someone elderly or vulnerable to it. It's a really scary time but we need to make some social sacrifices right now."

Experts say that although maintaining social distance can't stop the virus, it can buy the United States valuable time to slow the spread. Along with school and work shutdowns and event cancellations, some major cities have started enforcing the mandatory closing of bars and are restricting the number of people allowed in restaurants.

Yet some aren't changing their plans, as Grande dryly noted: "like your hip hop yoga class can [expletive] wait I promise," she tweeted to her 72 million Twitter followers; she posted the same message to 177 million on Instagram.

"I keep hearing from a surprising amount of people statements like 'this isn't a big deal' / 'we'll be fine' ... 'we still have to go about our daily lives' and it's really bugging my mind. I understand if that is how u felt weeks ago, but please read about what's going on, please don't turn a blind eye," Grande continued. "It is incredibly dangerous and selfish to take this situation that lightly, the 'we will be fine because we're young' mindset is putting people who aren't young and/or aren't healthy in a lot of danger, you sound stupid and privileged and you need to care more about others, like now."

She also responded to those who pointed out that some people are forced to work, even during a pandemic. "yes, for sure. I am just asking the people that have the privilege of cancelled work to practice social distancing instead of deliberately making selfish choices that put others in danger," she wrote, clarifying that she was talking about people who are still going out to eat and to the mall or movies. "If you have the choice, if your work is cancelled, please try to be considerate of others. that is all I meant."



Mary Steenburgen had to add singing and dancing to her repertoire for her role in TV's "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist."

Answering the call

Steenburgen branching out by trying songwriting, singing/dancing TV role

By SONIA RAO
The Washington Post

Just over a decade ago, Mary Steenburgen awoke from minor arm surgery and began to hear music — everywhere. Every street sign she read, every sentence she heard got swept up into what she refers to as a "musical tornado." Words and melodies swirled around in her head. She was terrified.

"The best way I can describe it is that you have your idea of what it sounds like to be you, to have your mind be what it is," the Oscar-winning actress told The Washington Post. "And all of a sudden, it doesn't sound like that anymore. It made concentrating on anything very difficult."

Steenburgen needed a way to return to normalcy and eventually found it by channeling her new reality into songwriting. But starting out as a beginner at 54 years old was "really sometimes hard on the ego," she said. It took gumption and an honest sense of self for her to get to where she is now: "I never tried to pass myself off as being more accomplished at it than I was," she added.

Having successfully "apprenticed" at songwriting — perhaps an understatement, given that one of her compositions, power ballad "Glasgow (No Place Like Home)," landed on this year's Oscars shortlist for best original song — Steenburgen is ready to take on another challenge. The actress, now 67, stars in the NBC sitcom "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," which required her to add singing and dancing to her repertoire. The series, which

returned Sunday, tells a story oddly similar to her own: After getting an MRI scan, computer coder Zoey Clarke (Jane Levy) discovers she can hear people's inner thoughts through songs, which she then imagines them performing.

Steenburgen plays Zoey's mother, Maggie, a grounding force in a show whose premise often lends itself to levity. Maggie's husband, Mitch (Peter Gallagher), is based on series creator Austin Winsberg's own father and suffers from a rare neurological condition that has rendered him unable to speak or move.

Steenburgen also took on the role for the chance to work with Emmy-winning choreographer Mandy Moore, whom she deemed "a genius." The actress admitted her musical ability did not naturally extend past songwriting to singing and dancing, yet she is seen doing both as early as the second episode.

"I just like taking risks," she said of the show. "It was this opportunity to incorporate music into the job I've had for 45 years ... I can't imagine having said no to it."

Music has become such an essential part of Steenburgen's life that on "The Good Place," the recently concluded NBC sitcom starring her husband, actor Ted Danson, she played a cameo role as a guitar teacher.

"Every moment you are privileged to draw a breath in this life, you are capable of change," she said. "And you are capable of learning, and you are capable of growth. Why would you close the door to that?"

Ticket sales dive at box office for worst week in 20 years

Associated Press

Ticket sales plunged to their lowest levels in at least 20 years as North American movie theaters as the coronavirus pandemic led to one of Hollywood's worst weekends at the box office.

Receipts totaled about \$55.3 million in U.S. and Canada theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. Not since 2000 has weekend box office revenue been so low, according to data firm Comscore, when \$54.5 million in tickets were sold on a quiet September weekend. More people went to the movies the weekend after Sept. 11, 2001.

Disney's latest release from Pixar, "Onward," remained the top film, earning \$10.5 million in its second weekend. The Christian romance "I Still Believe" from Lionsgate brought in \$9.5 million. Sony's comic-book adaptation "Bloodshot," with Vin Diesel, grossed an estimated \$9.3 million in its debut. The Blumhouse horror satire "The Hunt" opened with \$5.3 million.

All of those totals were notably below expectations. Most films last week had aimed to do 25% to 50% better. The weekend's sales overall were down 45% from the weekend before, according to Comscore.

While this weekend's crop of films weren't expected to compete with the same-time frame last year, when "Captain Marvel" was in release, revenue was down 60% from the same weekend last year.

Pixar films virtually always hold well for weeks, but "Onward" dropped 73% from its opening weekend. "The Hunt," which premiered its release after its debut was canceled last fall following a wave of deadly shootings, had hoped to do twice as well.

Most of Europe's cinemas have shuttered in recent days, as have theaters in China, India, Lebanon and Kuwait. But the wide majority of North American theaters remained open for business over the weekend. The continent's two largest chains, AMC Theaters and Regal Cinemas, said they wouldn't fill theaters to more than 50% capacity to facilitate social distancing. Others asked moviegoers to leave empty seats around them. All pledged to clean theaters in between screenings.

Much of the entertainment world has shut down. Broadway theaters, major museums and theme parks have closed their doors. Concerts have been called off. Festivals have been canceled or delayed. Most live-action film and TV production has been put on hiatus.

Hollywood also has postponed most of its upcoming slate. Next week's most anticipated movie, "A Quiet Place Part 2," has been removed from the schedule. Other major releases, including Disney's "Mulan" and the James Bond film "Die Another Day" have been put off.

Other news

■ The Academy of Country Music said Sunday that it was postponing its annual awards show, which was to be held April 5 at the MGM Garden Arena in Las Vegas and televised on CBS, because of the coronavirus pandemic. The plan now is to hold the show in September, at a date and venue to be determined.

■ Isabel Wilkerson's first book since her Pulitzer Prize winning "The Warmth of Other Suns" is a yearslong project that will explore what she calls the "unseen skeleton" of hierarchy in American life. Random House announced Monday that Wilkerson's "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" comes out Aug. 20. In the book, Wilkerson writes that "The human impulse to create hierarchies runs across societies and cultures" and "pre-dates the idea of race."

WORLD

Israel swears in new parliament amid virus fears

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel swore in its newly elected parliament on Monday under stringent restrictions because of the coronavirus outbreak, in a surreal ceremony reflecting the country's unprecedented dual crisis in politics and public health.

Instead of the typical festive gathering of parliament's 120, the new lawmakers took the oath of office in groups of three over 40 staggered rounds, in keeping with a Health Ministry ban on gatherings of more than 10 people. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin presided over the unusual event after the Israeli Knesset, or Parliament, was thoroughly sprayed with disinfectant.

The president, flanked by the Knesset speaker and secretary,

opened the first session of parliament before a chamber empty save for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his rival Benny Gantz. They sat several rows apart and made little eye contact, outnumbered by three trumpeters in the hall who rang in the first session of parliament.

Rivlin called for unity and compromise from the two leaders, saying the Israeli people "are in need of rest, we are in need of healing" after three parliamentary elections in under a year.

After Netanyahu and Gantz were sworn in, they were ushered out of the hall and the lawmakers were brought in three-by-three for brief swearing-in ceremonies.

The event, coming two weeks after national elections, will give the country a new legislature. But Israel still seems a long way from



ODED BALUTY/AP

A man wears a face mask as he rides a bus in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Sunday. Israel's new lawmakers were sworn into office in groups of three to abide by coronavirus restrictions Monday.

establishing a stable government.

Rivlin on Monday formally designated Gantz, leader of the Blue and White party, the task of forming a coalition after the retired military chief secured a slim majority of recommendations from incoming lawmakers.

Gantz promised to "do whatever it takes to form within as few days as possible a national, patriotic and broad government."

With the country's continued deadlock likely, and the prospect

of yet another election seeming preposterous under the circumstances, Rivlin summoned both Netanyahu and Gantz late Sunday to an emergency meeting in hopes of cajoling them into a unity government.

Both men have expressed openness to the concept amid a national sense of emergency surrounding the spread of the new virus.

Although Gantz's chances of forming a new government appear

slim, receiving the "mandate" from Rivlin could strengthen his position in unity talks with Netanyahu.

During the transition period, his Blue and White party is expected to name one of its members as speaker of the parliament and to pass legislation that would prevent an indicted politician from forming a new government. That could bar Netanyahu from leading the nation if there is a new election.

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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944

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WORLD

Safety delays take Japan reactor offline

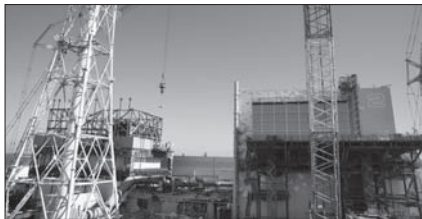
By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — The operator of a nuclear power plant in southern Japan was forced to shut down one of its reactors Monday because of a failure to meet the deadline for adding an anti-terror safety facility made mandatory after the Fukushima disaster.

Kyushu Electric Power Co. shut down the No. 1 reactor at its Sendai nuclear power station in the Kagoshima prefecture in southern Japan, becoming the first to go offline due to a delay in meeting the new regulations.

The company started its earlier-than-scheduled regular inspection Monday to work on the requirement, among other safety measures. It will have to shut down another reactor at the Sendai plant in May also for failing to meet the requirement, meaning that about half of nine reactors will be taken offline because of the delinquency.

Kyushu Electric is not the only plant with the delay. Kansai Electric Power Co. is expected to have



Jae C. Hong/AP

The Unit 1 and 2 reactor buildings are seen at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, Japan.

to shut down two reactors at its Takahama plant in western Japan in August and October.

The anti-terror safety requirement was adopted in 2013 after the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown that exposed a significant lack of safety culture and transparency among nuclear operators, and lax oversight by nuclear regulators, prompting a major overhaul and reforms.

The post-Fukushima regulation requires plant operators to build facilities for emergencies such as possible terror attacks and aircraft crashes within five years of an approval of construction plans by the Nuclear Regulation Authority.

Kyushu Electric aims to fulfill the requirement, complete other necessary safety measures and restart the reactor by the end of

this year.

In addition to the setbacks on safety measures, Kansai Electric has also come under fire over its compliance problems after an exposure of its decades-old corruption between the company and Takahama, home to one of its nuclear power plants.

On Monday, Takashi Morimoto, new president of Kansai Electric, Japan's second-largest power company, was reprimanded by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and ordered to make organizational reforms to improve governance and report back to the ministry by June. Morimoto replaced his predecessor, Shigeki Iwane, who resigned Saturday.

The measure followed Saturday's report by an independent committee which investigated the bribery scandal that said 75 officials at the company's nuclear power department had received cash and gifts worth \$3.4 million from a former deputy mayor of Takahama for three decades until his death last year.

Priest who abused Boy Scouts gets 5 years

LYON, France — A French priest who acknowledged sexually abusing at least 75 boys over decades was sentenced Monday to five years in prison, in France's worst case of clergy abuse to reach trial.

The court in Lyon issued the verdict against 74-year-old Bernard Preynat behind closed doors. Preynat testified that multiple cardinals and other senior church officials were aware of his misconduct dating back to the 1960s, but he wasn't removed from the priesthood until last year.

Victims of Preynat's abuse, primarily Boy Scouts, welcomed his conviction for sexually abusing minors. Preynat was a Scout leader.

"It's really a relief," said Pierre Emmanuel Germain-Thill, who testified that Preynat's abuse upturned his life. "Since he's someone of a certain age, it seems like a correct verdict to me. The victims want to turn the page."

Worker at care home sentenced for killings

TOKYO — A Japanese court on Monday sentenced a former care home employee, Satoshi Uematsu, to hang for knifing to death 19 disabled people and injuring two dozen others in the deadliest mass attack in post-World War II Japan.

During the investigation and trial, Uematsu repeatedly said that he had no regrets and was trying to help the world by killing people he thought were burdens. Advocacy groups said that the suspect's views reflected a persistent prejudice in Japan against people with disabilities.

The trial focused on his mental state at the time of the crime. Chief Judge Kiyoshi Aonuma dismissed defense requests to acquit him because he was mentally incompetent due to a marijuana overdose.

"The attacks were premeditated, and the defendant was acting consistently to achieve his goal," Aonuma said, according to NHK public television.

Migrant tanker runs aground near Athens

ATHENS, Greece — A tanker carrying around 190 migrants ran aground in rough weather just outside the port on the Cycladic island of Kea, near the Greek capital, the coast guard said Monday.

The tanker hit the outside of the breakwater at the port in the early hours of the morning, in gale-force winds and rough seas. All passengers managed to disembark of their own accord and were being temporarily housed by the municipality in a local hotel, the coast guard said.

While thousands of migrants head to eastern Aegean Greek islands from the nearby Turkish coast, they generally use inflatable dinghies. It is rare, though not unprecedented, for migrant smugglers to use cargo ships or tankers to ferry migrants to Greece.

From The Associated Press

Mozambique braces for virus during storm recovery

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — A year after hundreds of people were killed by one of the southern hemisphere's worst cyclones, Mozambique's port city of Beira is rebounding, but more than a million people need food aid there and in the surrounding countryside.

"A year ago, much of Beira was flooded by Cyclone Idai. Buildings were inundated, homes collapsed or were washed away," said Daniel Timme of UNICEF, who was in the southern African city at the time. "People were desperately seeking family members and hunting for safe shelter and food."

Back in Beira now, the port's progress made in the city, Mozambique's fourth-largest, as residents repaired buildings and roads have been rebuilt. Seasonal rains have returned, but flood canals are channeling the waters away and the city center is bustling.

"There is a buzz of activity in Beira's port and marketplaces now," Timme said in a phone interview. "There's a great spirit of resilience here, although significant problems remain."

Poverty and hunger are at high levels in Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries. Low-lying Mozambique, with a population of 30 million and a thousand-mile coastline on the Indian Ocean, is especially prone to climate change disasters, he said.

Now another health challenge looms large: the new coronavirus. Mozambique has not recorded a case of COVID-19 so far, but the disease is spreading across Africa. Neighboring South Africa on Sunday declared a national disaster after dozens of confirmed cases.

"One year after the cyclone hit Beira, the reconstruction is taking place, but it's growing very slowly and people are rebuilding, they've put a tin roof on their home and they are trying to rebuild," said Deborah Nguyen of the World Food Program.



Sunday Alabama/AP

People gather near the site of an explosion in Lagos, Nigeria.

Deadly explosion, fires ravage Nigeria's commercial capital

Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — An explosion hit Nigeria's commercial capital of Lagos early Sunday, killing at least 15 people and sparking search-and-rescue efforts to save people still trapped in collapsed buildings, emergency officials said.

The explosion in the Amuwo Odofin area of Lagos was heard several miles away. It destroyed more than 50 buildings, which either collapsed or caught fire, in three different neighborhoods, according to Ibrahim Farinloye, the spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency.

Fires were spreading to nearby oil pipelines, so there were fears of more damage or explosions. The death toll was expected to rise because residents said that some people

remained trapped in collapsed buildings.

"Fifteen bodies have been recovered, including a whole family of four who were heading to church before they were cut short in the explosion," Farinloye said.

At least two people have also been rescued alive, he said. One building is a school where injured children have been pulled from the rubble, some covered in blood.

Nigerian officials were not yet able to identify the cause of the massive explosion.

Linda Uche, a resident, told The Associated Press that the sound of the explosion and the extent of the damage was far more serious than a usual oil pipeline explosion.

It was the most serious explosion in Lagos since January 2002, when bombs from a military armory exploded, killing more than 1,000 people.

FAITH

“How do we get them to feel at home?”

Priests, Catholic school enrollment don't reflect Hispanic congregations

By DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Maria Chavira, a senior administrator in the Diocese of Phoenix, says Spanish-speaking Catholic parishes in her area are “bursting at the seams” and celebrates the emergence of Hispanics as the largest ethnic component of the church nationwide.

Throughout the Southwest, where the surge has been dramatic, Roman Catholic leaders are excited by the possibilities — and well aware of daunting challenges.

Hispanics now account for 40% of all U.S. Catholics, and a solid majority of school-age Catholics. Yet Hispanic Americans are strikingly underrepresented in Catholic schools and in the priesthood — accounting for less than 19% of Catholic school enrollment and only about 3% of U.S.-based priests.

In the Phoenix diocese, there are more than 700,000 Hispanics out of a total of 1.2 million Catholics. Yet out of more than 200 priests, Catholic researchers counted only seven American-born Hispanics.

Extensive efforts are underway to narrow the demographic gaps. They have been highlighted in a nearly completed four-year study by U.S. Catholic bishops seeking to strengthen the church's engagement with Hispanics.

“We have a lot of opportunities,” said Chavira, who oversees the Hispanic Mission Office and other departments in the Phoenix diocese. “There may be a little turbulence ahead, but we're going to make it.”

Chavira is among more than two dozen Catholic leaders and activists who shared their thoughts about the Hispanic Catholic phenomenon with The Associated Press, some in telephone interviews and others face-to-face.

Evidence of the change can be seen each December, when thousands of Hispanic Catholics dance and march in downtown Phoenix to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. It can be seen in fast-growing, heavily Hispanic communities in Phoenix's western suburbs.

Nationwide, more than 1,200 Catholic schools have closed in the past decade, usually under financial stress. Yet in the suburb of Avondale, enrollment is surging at a new Catholic high school.

The school, named for Pope John Paul II, opened in 2018. About 70% of its 220 students are Hispanic; plans call for rapid expansion to accommodate an enrollment of 1,000.

“We're serving people who've been underserved in this nation,” said the principal, Sister Mary Jordan Hoover. “These young people are trying to learn to be the next teachers, the next administrators, writers, doctors. They're dreaming big.”

The hopefulness contrasts with circumstances in some other regions. Hundreds of parishes have closed in the Northeast and Midwest. The clergy sex abuse scandal has forced more than 20 dioceses across the U.S. into bankruptcy since 2004, most recently in the Northeast.

The scandals haven't spared the Southwest. The dioceses in Tucson, Ariz., and in Santa Fe and Gallup, N.M., are among those that declared bankruptcy.

But in states along the Mexico border, past scandals don't diminish the excitement over a future Hispanic-accented Catholic church. More than 400 new parishes have opened since 1970 in the border states, and many Hispanic Catholics were elated by the recent election of Mexican-born Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez as the first Hispanic president of the bishops' conference.

“It's the tale of two churches,” said Hofstman Ospino, a professor of Hispanic ministry at Boston College. “In Boston, I see a Catholicism that's very reserved. In the Southwest it's very public, very expressive.”

A major challenge for the Catholic hierarchy: persuading more Hispanic young men to become priests.

An example of that challenge: 30-year-old Diego Pina Lopez of Tucson. He's devoted his life to the Catholic tenet of supporting the dignity of all people, including asylum seekers who visit Casa Alitas, the Catholic-run shelter in



PHOTOS BY DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/AP



Above: People visit the main church at the Mission San Xavier del Bac in Tucson, Ariz., last month. Left: A man is reflected in a glass case containing a statue of a crucified Jesus Christ at the museum of the Mission San Xavier del Bac.

Tucson where he works.

Growing up, he considered becoming a priest, but opted instead to pursue graduate degrees in social work and public health. Why not the priesthood? “I wanted to have a family,” he said.

By the latest count of the bishops' conference, there are about 37,300 U.S.-based priests. Among them are roughly 3,000 Hispanics — more than 3,000 of them foreign-born.

One problem, said Ospino, is that Hispanics in the U.S. have lagged behind other groups in regard to college-level education, limiting the pool of young men qualified for seminary.

But even as the second and third generations of many Hispanic immigrant families do pursue higher education, other factors are at play.

“With those generations, there's extremely heavy pressure to think more about economic success than the glory of God,” said Daniel Flores, bishop of Brownsville, Texas. “We need to teach them the concept of service, rather than you need to earn as much as you can.”

Overall enrollment in Catholic schools in the U.S. has plummeted in recent decades, from more than 5.2 million in the 1960s to about 1.73 million this year. Of the current students, only 18.5% are Hispanic.

Experts cite several reasons.

Many Hispanics in the U.S. come from Latin American countries where private schools, including Catholic ones, are viewed as bastions of the wealthy. With tuition averaging more than \$5,000 for elementary grades and \$10,000 for high school, Catholic education in the U.S. seems unaffordable to many families. And many Catholic schools are losing students to charter schools, which are able to access government funds for their operations.

All these factors are present in the Brownsville diocese, where Catholic school enrollment has dropped sharply in recent years in the face of tougher competition from charter and public schools.

One of the elementary schools fighting to maintain its enrollment is St. Mary's Catholic School. Its principal, Ana Gomez, says 95% of her 350 students are Hispanic.

She's been able to keep enrollment stable with strategies taught by the Latino Enrollment Initiative, a program based at Notre Dame University. Tactics include ensuring that schools are culturally in sync with Hispanic families, and helping parents fit tuition into their budgets. About 80 St. Mary's students now get some financial aid, Gomez said.

While the Hispanic population in the U.S. is sure to grow, the extent of the Catholic Church's hold on them is uncertain. Last year, the Pew Research Center re-

ported that U.S. Hispanics are no longer a majority-Catholic group, with 47% of them calling themselves Catholic, down from 57% in 2009. The number identifying as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular” increased from 16% to 23%; those identifying as Protestant rose from 23% to 26%.

Melba Salazar-Lucio, a professor and migrant-rights activist in Brownsville, says today's Catholic Church seems too rigid for many Hispanics. Her mother no longer attends church, she said, and her three grown children are no longer practicing Catholics.

“There are other denominations — they have more music, younger pastors who are more accepting of people's ways,” Salazar-Lucio said. “The Catholic church is not going to be changing with the times.”

At a migrant outreach center in Nogales, Mexico, abutting the Arizona border, Jesuit priest Sean Carroll ministers every day to asylum seekers who dream of joining the ranks of Hispanic Catholics in the U.S.

“They are bringing their culture, their gifts,” he said. “The challenge for the church is to be open to receiving those gifts. How do we get them to see themselves as leaders? How do we get them to feel at home?”



A priest marks repentance ashes on the foreheads of students from the St. John Paul II Catholic High School during Ash Wednesday Mass at the St. Thomas Aquinas church in Phoenix.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekly, except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for 50 issues Monday through Thursday and for 51 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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OPINION

How to keep hospitals from being overwhelmed

By LEANA S. WEN
Special to The Washington Post

Over the coming weeks, how many Americans die from COVID-19 will depend largely on the capacity of our hospitals to treat critically ill patients. As hospitals try to increase their surge capacity, each of us can take steps to reduce the burden on the health care system.

On most normal days, hospitals are usually at, or near, capacity. That limits their ability to pivot to emergency footing. So we all have to do what we can to help them treat the people who need it most.

The federal government's projections show that, in a moderate disease outbreak, 200,000 people will need intensive care. Today, there are fewer than 100,000 ICU beds in the United States, and most of them are already occupied. If hospitals are inundated with critically ill patients all at once, clinicians will be forced to ration scarce resources such as ventilators and ICU beds. (Doctors in Italy and China have faced this untenable situation over the past few months, and patients have been denied care and have died as a result.)

This is why public health experts talk about "flattening the curve," or slowing down the rate of transmission so that even if many people still get infected, the infections disperse over many months. Ideally, the delay could help us get to the point where a vaccine can be widely distributed. And even if it doesn't, spreading out the rate of infection would avoid the worst-case scenario of overwhelming hospitals in a concentrated period of time.

In the past week, we have seen aggressive actions by state and local officials to restrict mass gatherings at close schools and urge people to work from home. These social distancing measures are our best chance to flatten the curve. The new coronavirus is transmitted by person-to-person

In a worst-case scenario, 21 million people in the United States could require hospitalization — an unfathomable number given the fewer than 1 million staffed hospital beds our country has on hand.

contact. Without contact, the virus can't spread.

Those who are especially vulnerable — the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions — should be the first to reduce their exposure, but the young and healthy should also do their part. No one should be blasé about getting the virus — even if someone recovers without difficulty, they could have infected many others. Everyone should minimize social contact, in addition to practicing good hand and face hygiene and taking other preventive measures.

Starting now, everyone should try to avoid going to the ER. My emergency medicine colleagues around the country report that their waiting rooms are already being inundated with the so-called worried well. These are patients with cold and flu symptoms who are in the ER to be checked out for COVID-19.

In such cases, going to the ER will not help you — but it will place additional strain on our medical infrastructure. There aren't enough COVID-19 tests as it is and, besides, at the moment, you are unlikely to receive a test in the ER. Depending on the availability of tests in your area, you'll probably be told to go home, self-isolate and treat your symptoms with fluids, rest and over-the-counter medications.

In trying to meet the demands of worried patients and reduce the burden to ERs, many doctors are ramping up telemedicine consultations. Some hospitals and local health departments have hotlines for those

who have symptoms. Eventually, there will be separate clinics and drive-thru to get COVID-19 testing. Use these virtual and outpatient settings, and reserve the ER and inpatient care for patients who really need acute care services. You shouldn't go to the ER if you otherwise wouldn't have gone but for concern over COVID-19.

In the meantime, hospitals are putting into place their pandemic preparedness plans to increase surge capacity. They are reducing elective procedures and looking into constructing makeshift facilities. In time, the federal government may call upon the military to build field hospitals. Still, in a worst-case scenario, 21 million people in the United States could require hospitalization — an unfathomable number given the fewer than 1 million staffed hospital beds our country has on hand.

Of course, the United States should not be in this situation, so far into a pandemic, where we don't have tests for everyone who needs one or wants one. When this is over, we will need to address that misstep as well as our inability to provide sufficient care for even a moderate outbreak of a virus such as this.

But we can all play a role in the meantime. Our individual actions can change the trajectory of this disease, reduce strain on our health care system and save lives.

Leana S. Wen is an emergency physician and visiting professor at George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. Previously, she served as Baltimore's health commissioner.

Biden debuts as Democrats' presumptive nominee

By KAREN TUMULTY

The Washington Post

What happened on Sunday night was not a presidential debate. It was former Vice President Joe Biden's debut as the Democrats' presumptive 2020 nominee.

The headline of the evening was Biden's declaration that he plans to pick a female running mate, and that he would nominate an African American woman to the Supreme Court.

But it was the confidence with which Biden conducted himself throughout his two-hour exchange with Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., that signaled how dramatically the race has changed in the two weeks since the voters of South Carolina rescued his candidacy from oblivion.

The fact that the debate took place in the shadow of a national crisis only served to illuminate the degree to which Democrats are stepping back from arguing about philosophical differences within the party. Their energy from here on out will be focused on making the case against President Donald Trump, whose handling of the coronavirus epidemic has thrown his prospects for reelection into greater peril.

The stagecraft of the debate underscored how seriously the threat of a deadly epidemic has spun out of control on Trump's watch. Instead of taking place in Phoenix, as originally planned, it was moved to CNN's studios in Washington, and the customary audience of cheering supporters was dispensed with (which, it turns out, might be something to consider going forward).

Biden's and Sanders' lectures were set six feet apart, in a nod to the social distancing that health experts recommend, and the candidates greeted each other by bumping elbows, rather than shaking hands.

Still, there were plenty of missed opportunities to demonstrate how the race has shifted into a new, more serious phase. Biden and Sanders spent too much of the evening arguing over long-age votes.

And Sanders in particular seemed unable to get beyond the familiar refrains of his stump speech. Asked whether he would follow Biden's lead and commit to putting a woman on his ticket, Sanders stopped short, saying only that "my very strong tendency is to move in that direction."

Biden, for his part, refused to be drawn into arguing on Sanders' terms. He shrugged off Sanders' efforts to make the case that the virus could be better managed if Democrats had a single-party health care system. What the country needs now, he said, is a revolution but a plan.

"With all due respect to Medicare-for-all, you have a single-payer system in Italy. It doesn't work there," Biden said. "It has nothing to do with Medicare-for-all — that would not solve the problem at all. We can take care of that response by making sure that no one has to pay for treatment period because of the crisis."

Again and again, Biden came back to his experience in dealing with previous crises as Barack Obama's vice president. He talked in concrete terms of the steps that he would take were he the president in charge of the response to this one, taking advantage of the test kits developed by

the World Health Organization, expanding hospital-bed capacity, providing economic aid to people who may lose their paychecks and small businesses in need of loans to tide them over.

Since his overwhelming victory in South Carolina, Biden's campaign was on life support after humiliating defeats in Iowa and New Hampshire — has seen a remarkable consolidation of the Democratic electorate behind him. A newly released Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found that Biden now has nearly 2-to-1 support over Sanders among Democrats who have voted or plan to vote.

Biden has made a few concessions to the left, a sign that he knows he still has some work to do.

On Sunday, he nodded to Sanders by announcing that he favored making public colleges and universities tuition-free for students whose families earn \$125,000 and less. This came after he embraced the proposal of former rival Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., to undo a 2005 law — which Biden as a senator from Delaware supported — that made it harder for consumers to file for bankruptcy.

Since his primary losses, however, has now turned to Trump and the general election. It remains to be seen whether Biden can maintain the steadiness that he displayed on Sunday night. And at a moment when Americans are looking for mature and credible leadership, Biden took a big step toward showing the kind of president he might be.

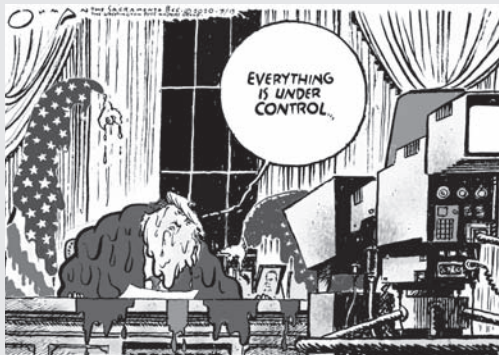
Karen Tumulty is a Washington Post columnist covering national politics.

Looking at the news

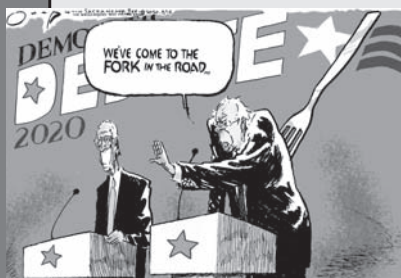
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



JEFF DANZIGER/Washington Post News Service



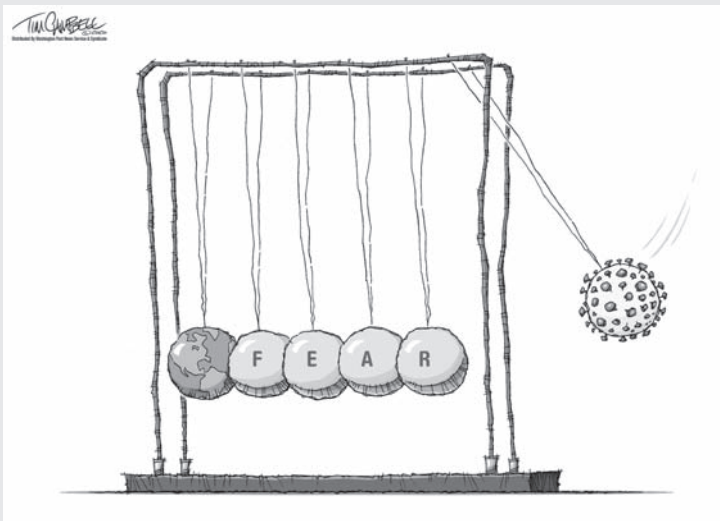
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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hiker pulled from under boulder loosened by rain

AZ PHOENIX — Phoenix officials temporarily closed two popular trails up Camelback Mountain after firefighters extracted a seriously injured hiker from under a boulder apparently loosened by recent rain.

The boulder estimated to weigh 300 pounds landed on the man when he grabbed it to stabilize himself while moving to the side of Cholla Trail to let other hikers pass, the Fire Department said.

The Parks and Recreation Department said rain had loosened rocks and boulders and that Echo Canyon and Cholla trails will be reopened once they're determined to be safe for public use.

Man charged in 1991 slaying of a woman

OH AKRON — DNA from distant relatives has been used to help identify a suspect in the 1991 slaying of an Ohio woman, authorities said.

Daniel Rees, 57, of Akron, was arrested and charged with aggravated murder, the Akron Beacon Journal reported.

Rees is accused of the March 1991 slaying of Rachael Johnson in Akron. An autopsy showed Johnson was beaten, sexually assaulted, stabbed and set on fire.

Her autopsy provided a DNA profile of the likely killer, but no matches in any DNA databases were found, Akron police Detective James Pashelich said.

Texas-based Advance DNA LLC began working on the case connecting the known DNA profile to distant relatives of a possible suspect. That work helped investigators pursue other leads, including gathering DNA from trash at Rees' home that matched the unidentified profile.

Mom shaves head for son, goes viral on TikTok

VA CHESTERFIELD — Heather Clifton shaved her head in the middle of her kitchen. In the months leading up to the decision, her 7-year-old son was diagnosed with alopecia, an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss. He was worried no one would want to be his friend.

"I feel like he had this perception that people are looking at his head and not at who he is," Clifton said.

She'd chosen to put up the before-and-after of the hourlong process on TikTok. In one frame, she throws her hair forward.

The next showed her grinning as she holds a ponytail in her right hand and runs her left across her newly shaved head.

The 10-second video had more than 380,000 views. The almost 1,000 comments include a variation of compliments toward Clifton's "nicely shaped head" and "you're an amazing mama."

Man gets 13 years in prison for cocaine, guns

MD BALTIMORE — A Maryland man has been sentenced to 13 years in



ROBIN RUDD, CHATTANOOGA (TENN.) TIMES FREE PRESS/AP

Squawk and awe

Chattanooga Zoo visitors respond as a African Crowded Crane flies through its enclosure in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Chattanooga Zoo was one of the few attractions open, following the coronavirus warnings.

prison on cocaine distribution and firearms charges.

The Daily Times of Salisbury reported that Taki Nikeya Smith, 44, was considered by federal authorities to be a "large-scale cocaine supplier on the Eastern Shore of Maryland."

Smith pleaded guilty to federal charges of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and to being in possession of a firearm.

Truck hauling horses crashes into plane

KY LEXINGTON — A truck driver transporting a horse trailer crashed into an airplane at Kentucky's Blue Grass Airport, authorities said.

The driver was hospitalized and the severity of his injuries weren't immediately released.

Airport spokeswoman Amy Caudill said the tractor-trailer hit the side of a Tex Sutton airplane causing the Boeing 727's wing to go through the truck's cab.

Caudill said the truck was on the ramp picking up horses that arrived from San Bernardino, Calif. To her knowledge, the two horses on the truck were fine, Caudill said.

Sheriff: Boy sets self on fire; mother arrested

GA AUGUSTA — A Georgia mother was arrested after her unattended 11-year-old

THE CENSUS

11

The number of people charged in a sting operation targeting smash-and-grab auto burglary rings in the San Francisco Bay Area. The operation led to 10 arrests and the recovery of about 2,000 electronic devices worth more than \$1.5 million, authorities said. Santa Clara County prosecutors and Fremont police officials announced that they seized nearly \$250,000 in cash and several luxury cars they believe were purchased with profits from cellphone, laptops and other electronics stolen from people's cars over the past several months.

son set himself on fire as part of a social media stunt, authorities said.

Mattelyn Parks, 29, of Augusta, was arrested and charged with first-degree cruelty to children, news outlets reported. The child had first- and second-degree burns on his face and chest that were not life-threatening, authorities said.

Richmond County Sheriff's Sgt. Caleb Lee said Parks had left her son and his 3-year-old sister alone at home when authorities received a fire call.

Deputies learned that the boy put rubbing alcohol on himself and lit it on fire. He told authorities he was copying a stunt he had seen on social media.

Police get tips on 30-year-old case

NM LAS CRUCES — Detectives are examining dozens of new tips related to the massacre at a southern New Mexico bowling alley more than 30 years ago following the announcement of a new reward.

The tips come a month after Las Cruces police detectives announced a \$30,000 reward for information leading to the suspects behind a deadly robbery that left four dead, KVIA-TV reported.

Police said two robbers came into the Las Cruces Bowl in February 1990 and shot seven people before burning a portion of the building. The assailants lined up all seven victims on the floor in the cramped office, shooting each in the head multiple times at close range.

Las Cruces Detective Amador Martinez said he's combing through 50 to 60 tips he's received since holding a news conference.

Molotov cocktails strike home, places of worship

MD HALETHORPE — Authorities in Maryland have charged a woman with arson and attempted murder after police said she threw Molotov cocktails into a house and two places of worship.

The Capital Gazette reported that the woman who was

charged is Heather Meisel, 43, of Halethorpe.

Police said that she smashed windows and threw Molotov cocktails into a house and Islamic center in Halethorpe. She also allegedly tossed an explosive into a Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall in Glen Burnie.

Officers use tear gas to break up wild party

WV MORGANTOWN — A raucous crowd of partiers near West Virginia University pelted officers with beer bottles during a wild stand-off that ended when police used tear gas against the crowd, officials said.

The Morgantown Police Department said 10 people were charged after officers tried to break up a party that completely shut down Beverly Avenue and people began throwing bottles, cans and other debris at them.

The officers took cover and used a loudspeaker to tell the party to disperse but the crowd grew in size and continued to hurl items at the officers, according to a news release from the police department.

Police then threw smoke grenades and tear gas at the crowd, ending the stand-off.

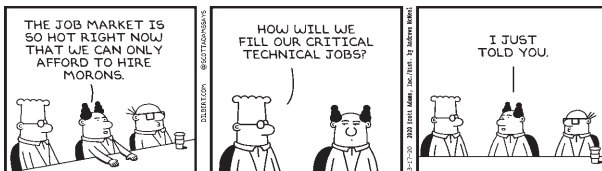
Authorities said they will review body camera video and other surveillance footage of the incident.

From wire reports

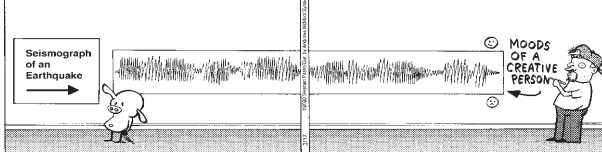
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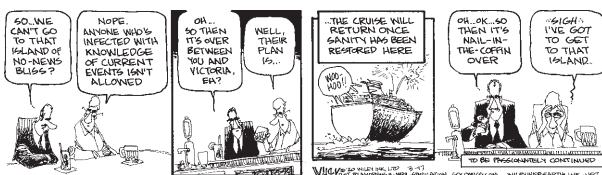
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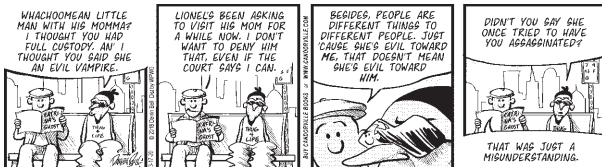
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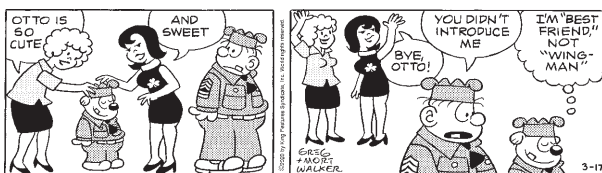
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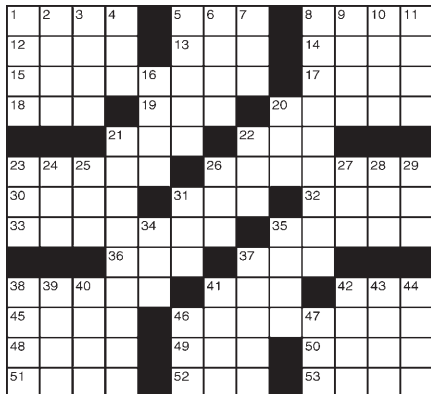
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Golden State sch.
- 5 AAA job
- 8 Alamo rival
- 12 Frat letters
- 13 Have debts
- 14 "Candy is dandy" poet
- 15 City on Lake Geneva
- 17 El —
- 18 Command to Fido
- 19 Airline to Sweden
- 20 Slow, in music
- 21 Have a bug
- 22 Peanut butter brand
- 23 "Captain Blood" star Errol
- 26 Bravery
- 30 Withdraw gradually
- 31 "Rah!"
- 32 War god
- 33 Bad mark
- 35 Bracelet site
- 36 Pinnacle
- 37 "Nasty!"
- 38 Rap star West
- 41 Nabokov novel
- 42 ISP choice
- 45 Earth Day subj.
- 46 "The Hours" actress Moore
- 48 Fork prong
- 49 Miner's find
- 50 Deception

- 51 Air freshener target
- 52 Abysmal
- 53 Calendar entry (Abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Web addresses
- 2 Spiced tea
- 3 Lummo
- 4 Donkey
- 5 Sound-related
- 6 Has
- 7 Teeny
- 8 Famed diarist
- 9 Futile
- 10 "I'm Romantic?"
- 11 "Scram!"
- 16B — boy
- 20 Access Lucy
- 21 "The Accidental Tourist" author
- 22 Bliss
- 23 Email subject line abbr.
- 24 Shelter
- 25 Orange veggie
- 26 Persian, for one
- 27 Noah's boat
- 28 Solidify
- 29 Compass pt.
- 31 Shril bark
- 34 Sturgeon product
- 35 "Superfood" berry
- 37 Did nothing
- 38 Trendy low-carb diet
- 39 Battery fluid
- 40 Taboo
- 41 Mystique
- 42 L-Q bridge
- 43 Lose it
- 44 On deck
- 46 Task
- 47 "Caught ya!"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

AOL	PEC	BIAS
SPEC	ABA	OWLS
ATNO	NOR	OOPS
PSALM	NOOK	
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3-17

CRYPTOQUIP

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Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
TEXAS RANGERS — Options LHP Joe Palmuto to Nashville.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Agreed to terms with DT Tyrion Davidson on a three-year extension.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Agreed to terms with T Anthony Castonzo on a two-year extension.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Traded DE Calais Campbell to the Baltimore Ravens for a 2020 fifth-round draft pick.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Agreed to extend contract of S Devin McCourty; terms not announced.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with QB Ryan Tannehill on a four-year extension.

Pro hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Boston	70	44	20	6	92	246	195		
Tampa Bay	70	43	21	6	92	245	195		
Toronto	70	36	25	9	81	238	227		
Florida	70	35	26	9	80	238	228		
Montreal	71	31	31	9	71	212	221		
Buffalo	70	29	33	8	68	215	217		
Ottawa	71	25	34	12	62	191	243		
Detroit	71	17	48	5	39	145	267		

Metropolitan Division									
Washington	69	41	20	8	90	240	215		
Pittsburgh	69	41	21	7	89	232	196		
Pittsburgh	69	40	23	6	86	224	196		
Carolina	68	38	25	5	81	222	193		
Columbus	70	33	22	15	81	180	187		
N.Y. Islanders	69	35	32	10	80	192	219		
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	28	5	79	234	222		
New Jersey	69	26	38	5	58	189	230		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
St. Louis	71	42	19	10	94	252	193		
Colorado	70	42	20	8	92	237	191		
Dallas	69	37	24	8	82	187	187		
Winnipeg	71	37	28	6	80	216	203		
Nashville	69	35	25	9	78	215	217		
Minnesota	69	35	27	7	77	227	221		
Chicago	70	32	30	8	72	212	218		

Pacific Division									
Vegas	71	37	25	9	86	227	211		
Edmonton	70	36	27	7	83	225	217		
Calgary	69	36	27	6	78	228	217		
Vancouver	70	33	29	8	74	195	187		
Arizona	70	29	33	9	68	187	226		
Los Angeles	70	29	35	6	64	178	212		
San Jose	69	29	36	5	63	182	225		

Games postponed at least until mid-April.

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Toronto	43	21	.672	3					
Boston	39	26	.600	7½					
Philadelphia	39	26	.600	7½					
Brooklyn	41	25	.618	6					
New York	41	25	.618	6					

Southeast Division									
Miami	41	24	.631	—					
Cleveland	40	25	.612	1½					
Washington	24	40	.375	16½					
Charlotte	23	42	.354	18					
Atlanta	21	39	.344	22					

Central Division									
Milwaukee	41	24	.631	—					
Indiana	39	26	.600	14					
Chicago	42	43	.338	31					
Detroit	20	40	.333	33½					
Cleveland	48	46	.500	34					

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
	Pct	GB							
Houston	40	24	.625	—					
L.A. Clippers	34	20	.625	1½					
Memphis	32	33	.492	8½					
New Orleans	28	36	.438	12					
San Antonio	17	47	.262	27½					

Northwest Division									
Denver	41	23	.641	½					
Utah	40	24	.625	2½					
Oklahoma City	37	27	.576	7½					
Portland	35	27	.563	9½					
Minnesota	19	45	.297	23½					

Pacific Division									
L.A. Lakers	49	14	.778	—					
G.S. Warriors	44	20	.688	5½					
Sacramento	28	36	.438	21½					
Phoenix	26	39	.400	24					
Golden State	15	50	.231	35					

Games postponed at least until mid-April.

Briefs

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans are keeping the quarterback that led them within a victory of the Super Bowl, agreeing to a four-year, \$118 million extension with Ryan Tannehill.

The Titans announced the deal Sunday, hours after the NFL Players Association approved a new collective bargaining agreement.

"Tennessee let's run it back," Tannehill wrote on Twitter.

The Titans also plan on keeping running back Derrick Henry after using the nonexclusive franchise tag on the NFL rushing leader on Monday. That means Henry still can receive offers from other teams, with the Titans able to match or receive two first-round draft picks. The franchise tag for a running back is estimated to cost \$12.3 million, according to Overthecap.com.

Henry led the league with 1,540 yards on 303 carries and became the first in the NFL to run for at least 180 yards in three straight games over the regular season or postseason. Henry had seven 100-yard games over his final nine games, and he ranks third in NFL history, averaging



The Tennessee Titans agreed to a four-year, \$118 million extension with quarterback Ryan Tannehill.

126 yards rushing for his career in the playoffs.

After being traded by Miami to Tennessee last March, Tannehill went 9-4 overall as a starter, 7-3 in the final 10 games of the regular season. Tannehill led the NFL with a career-best 117.5 passer rating, the fourth highest in NFL history and a franchise best.

Tannehill threw for 2,742 yards with 22 touchdowns and six interceptions during the regular season.

He helped lead the Titans to their first AFC championship appearance in 17 years with road

wins at New England and Baltimore. They lost 35-24 at Kansas City.

Tannehill earned his first Pro Bowl nod and was The AP NFL Comeback Player of the Year.

In other NFL news:

■ The Dallas Cowboys have placed their exclusive franchise tag on quarterback Dak Prescott, securing the rights to their star quarterback for an estimated \$31.5 million while the sides continue working on a long-term deal.

The Cowboys announced the decision on their website about

an hour before the deadline for teams to designate the franchise tag.

By using the tag on Prescott, the Cowboys will work to get a deal with Amari Cooper before the receiver becomes an unrestricted free agent when the new league year starts, currently set for Wednesday.

■ The Baltimore Ravens made quite the deal to land veteran Calais Campbell, agreeing to trade a fifth-round draft pick in the upcoming draft to the Jacksonville Jaguars for the five-time Pro Bowl defensive lineman, according to a person familiar with the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity. The trade can't become official until the new league begins.

■ The Minnesota Vikings and quarterback Kirk Cousins have agreed to a two-year contract extension, his agent Mike McCarty said Monday. Terms of the deal were not immediately available.

■ The Pittsburgh Steelers are holding out outside linebacker Bud Dupree. The team placed the franchise tag on Dupree on Monday, just hours before the NFL-mandated deadline for teams to use the designation.

Commentary

NFL wins with deal players didn't have to make

By TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

More money, more jobs, and more for retirement.

Those are the kind of things negotiated in most union contracts, and the union that represents NFL players got them in the new deal that ties the NFL and its players together for the next decade.

But what more, too? Who would negotiate that?

That's the sort of schism among NFL owners. They're popping champagne corks after getting players to sign off on a deal that guarantees their golden goose remains golden for at least another 10 years.

What's not to like about getting more regular-season games — and more playoff games (though owners can impose that decision unilaterally) — for the upcoming television deals that will make their billion-dollar franchises even more valuable than before?

"We are pleased that the players have voted to ratify the proposed new CBA, which will provide substantial benefits to all current and retired players, increase jobs, ensure continued progress on player safety, and give our fans more and better football," Commissioner Roger Goodell said.

Not so pleased are some of the NFL's elite players, who already have big salaries and weren't looking for more work. They'll be

risking their bodies at least one more Sunday a year when the league goes to an expanded schedule as soon as the 2021 season.

"It seems like player safety has a price tag," 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman said at the Super Bowl. "You know, player safety up to the point of, hey, 17 games makes us this much money. So they really don't care how safe we are."

Not safer than before, that's for sure. A 17th game not only increases the chance of injury to players but adds wear and tear to bodies that struggle to make it through the season intact as it is.

Yes, players do get fewer practices in pads and one less exhibition game as part of the trade off. There are more jobs — and more money — for those who stay healthy and productive.

And retirees make out better, too, with larger pensions and more players included in the pension pool.

That's all well and good for a union that struggles to get the same kind of deals that baseball and basketball players take for granted. The NFLPA always seems to be playing catch-up when it goes against hard-line owners who have beaten the union down before and would not be averse to doing it again.

But this was a deal that didn't need to be made, at least right now. There's still another year left on the current pact, and plenty of time to twist the arms of owners — even with the implicit warning from on top that this was the best they could do.

And to make it for 10 years? Didn't players learn anything from the current contract that began when some players were still in middle school?

That means at least another decade without guaranteed deals for most players. Another decade with cheap rookie deals that for many will be the only contract they ever get.

It's enough to make Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones gasp at his new yacht and party like no one had ever heard of the coronavirus.

"Can't believe we agreed to that lol," Colts tight end Eric Ebron tweeted. "We can only play this game for so long and y'all didn't want everything we could get out of it? ... 2030 y'all do better."

Players didn't agree to it by much. The final vote was a razor-thin 1,019-59 for approving the deal, and some 500 eligible players didn't even bother to vote.

Hardly an overwhelming mandate. But for many players the promise of more money was too much to resist. Indeed, owners knew what they were doing when they dangled just enough sweeteners in front of players, knowing many are more concerned with what they might make today than what will happen to them over the next 10 years.

Then again, with a pandemic ravaging the world, maybe they figured that even if new contracts aren't guaranteed, nothing else is life is either.

"I think the coronavirus probably got into some peoples' minds, definitely," Denver cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said. "I had already voted, but I wouldn't have changed my mind. I can see, though, how it could have caused some guys to change from a no to a yes (for financial stability)."

The NFL will soon begin negotiating new TV and digital deals, and more billions to add to league coffers. Players will get a percentage of that, so they've got incentive to make a deal for the common good.

The other incentive is that the average NFL career lasts only a few years, so they must as well grab everything they can right now. Players are doing just that in a deal they rushed into making.

And the NFL owners win once again.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL/HIGH SCHOOLS



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Players for No. 16 seed UMBC celebrate their 74-54 win over No. 1 Virginia in a first-round game on March 16, 2018, in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament in Charlotte, N.C.

Hoops: No shining moment this season

FROM BACK PAGE

he was a kid for a better opportunity to play basketball. He was hoping to be reunited with his mom at the Final Four in Atlanta.

Would the Jayhawks have made it to Atlanta? Who was ready to step in if they didn't?

A top candidate for Most Inspirational would've come from Dayton. The struggling Ohio city was shattered by a mass shooting last summer. Trey Landers, a senior guard at the 11,000-student Catholic school, was among those who escaped from a bar as a gunman approached with an assault-style weapon. "Our team is helping pull the city together a little bit ... It's bigger than us," Landers said recently. The Flyers, at 29-2 and ranked third in The Associated Press poll, were headed for a No. 1 seed.

Rutgers also was on the verge of making history. One of the most down-trodden sports programs in America was projected to make the tournament for the first time since 1991. "We would have won some games, too," coach Steve Pikiell said. Now, all the Scarlet Knights can do is wait 'til next year.

Michigan State would have been in the mix, as always. Its star player, Cassius Winston, would've been the emotional center of any deep run by the Spartans. His brother, Zachary, stepped in front of a moving train and was killed instantly last November. "I lost a piece of my heart, but you guys keep me going," Winston told Spartans fans shortly after his brother's death.

The Pac-12's best player, Payton Pritchard of Oregon, was trying to bookend his trip to the Final Four as a freshman with another as a senior. Speaking of the Ducks, was there any more dominating player in the country than Sabrina Ionescu? She had 26 career triple-doubles and finished her career with more than 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, left, greets members of the Loyola-Chicago basketball team as they walk off the court after a first-round win over Miami on March 15, 2018, in Dallas.

1,000 assists. But as is the case with the men, the party will end for the women before they get their chance to shine on the big stage.

This season's tournament, like all before them, would've been filled with dozens of legends in the making and diamonds in the rough — with teams that overcame adversity to get this far and superfans who inspired the country every bit as much as their team.

Might one have come from Belmont? The Ohio Valley Conference champions won a thriller of a conference title game with a last-second bucket off a backdoor cut on a play called "Liberty."

Or, how about Liberty? The Flames had punched their ticket by winning the Atlantic Sun tournament last Sunday, before the cancellations began en masse. They'll have to settle for a 30-4 record and the thoughts about what might have been in what would have been the program's first back-to-back trips to the show.

Ah, what might have been. New Mexico State was an inch away from the tying layup in the first round last year, but a selfless

Aggie passed on the layup and kicked it out to a teammate for an open three. That player got fouled and made only one free throw. Advancing instead was Auburn — and the momentum from that win pushed the Tigers all the way to the Final Four. Both teams were a good bet to make it back to the show this year.

But there will be no betting. And there will be no bulldogs, either. The Butler Bulldogs — remember them? — were a shoe-in for the bracket, but the availability of their mascot, Blue III, has been a source of controversy since the NCAA banned him from entering arenas a few years ago. Blue's handler, Michael Kaltenmark, was hanging up the leash either way after this season.

It's ending sooner than he — or anyone — expected.

"Extremely, extremely disappointed," said Mark Pew, the coach of Gonzaga, which also was poised to be a No. 1 seed.

He's hardly the first coach to see his team's dreams crushed in March. But there wasn't a player, coach or fan in America who thought the season would end before the fun even began.

School closings wipe spring sports slate

All practices, games and events canceled for as long as DODEA Europe schools remain closed

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

In-person school is canceled for the vast majority of DODEA Europe schools as of Monday, and with it at least several weeks of the organization's slate of spring sports.

Athletic director Kathlene Clemmons confirmed Friday, soon after DODEA Europe's announcement about the widespread closures, that all practices, games and events will be canceled for as long as the involved schools remain closed. That includes boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball and track and field.

That comprehensive decision followed a spate of initial cancellations in response to the spreading coronavirus. Soccer games in Italy scheduled for the season's opening weekend of March 14 were canceled first as that country became the first in Europe to be ravaged by the disease. Soon after, Clemmons announced that games and meets through March 21 were canceled.

Since then, leagues at every level across the world have scrapped their schedules. Major events like the NCAA basketball tournaments were canceled outright, the NBA, NHL and Premier League seasons are suspended and may not resume and the start of the Major League Baseball season has been indefinitely delayed. High-school leagues across the United States and under-18 leagues around Europe are in a similar predicament.

While DODEA Pacific was not so fortunate, DODEA Europe was able to fit in its basketball tournaments and other winter championships before the virus began to cause widespread disruptions outside of China and its neighboring countries. Six European hoops champions were crowned Feb. 22 in Wiesbaden; the boys and girls teams from northern Italian schools Aviano and Vicenza were all active just days before the area faced Europe's first major outbreak of the coronavirus. The spring season, however, is at risk of not starting. Soccer was due to begin over the weekend, while baseball and softball were originally set to start March 21 and track and field was slated for a March 28 start. The DODEA Europe season was already set for a midseason hiatus over spring break, starting April 6. If school can resume after spring break — any earlier seems unlikely — a reduced spring season remains possible. If school closures persist beyond that, the spring championships, all of which are scheduled for the week of May 18 in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, face cancellation.

For now, DODEA-Europe joins most of the rest of the sports world in an unscheduled, indefinite pause.

"We will work on a plan for the spring season when we have a better idea of when schools might be able to open again," Clemmons said Friday.

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BRIAN FERUSON/Stars and Stripes

A scene from last season's soccer finals in Kaiserslautern, Germany. DODEA Europe has said that all practices, games and events will be canceled for as long as the involved schools remain closed. That includes boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball and track and field.

VIRUS OUTBREAK



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Bugler Jay Cohen plays "First Call" as he calls the riders to post for the first race at Santa Anita Park to empty stands Saturday in Arcadia, Calif. New recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday night seem to suggest that sports in this country could for all intents and purposes be gone until May, if not later.

CDC recommendations may further postpone pro sports

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

The already-delayed professional sports seasons in North America could be on hiatus for significantly longer than first planned after federal officials said Sunday that they recommend all in-person events involving 50 people or more be called off for the next eight weeks.

That's twice as long as the 30-day shutdowns that the NBA, NHL and Major League Soccer decided to put into place last week in response to the global coronavirus pandemic that has already made a deep impact on the U.S. financial markets and has been blamed for at least 64 deaths in this country.

Major League Baseball also was going with what essentially was a 30-day shutdown after canceling the rest of spring training and pushing back the start of regular season play for two weeks; opening day was to have been March 26.

But new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday night seem to suggest that sports in this country could for all intents and purposes be gone until May, if not later.

"CDC, in accordance with its guidance for large events and mass gatherings, recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers ... cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States," it said. "Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing."

The eight-week window easily exceeds what would have been

DID YOU KNOW?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday recommended that for the next 8 weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States.

SOURCE: Associated Press

the remainder of the NBA and NHL regular seasons, plus would cover about the first 25% of the MLB season — or roughly 40 games per team. It would also cast serious doubt on the ability to hold other major U.S. sporting events as planned, such as the Kentucky Derby in early May.

The NBA was already bracing to play games without fans in arenas, something that would have started late last week had a player — Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz — not tested positive for the virus. COVID-19. Utah teammate Donovan Mitchell and Detroit's Christian Wood have tested positive since, but Gobert's diagnosis was enough for the league to say that it was suspending play.

"I've been feeling a little better every single day," Gobert said in a video posted Sunday. He added, "I wish I would have (taken) this thing more seriously."

Later Sunday, a person with knowledge of the matter said the NBA has sent teams a memo saying players can leave their home markets during the shutdown if they so choose — yet another clear sign that the game's hiatus is not ending anytime soon. But if those players do leave for another market, they must do so after coordinating plans with their teams and medical advisers.

The memo also told teams for-

mal practices will remain off indefinitely, individual workouts at team facilities may continue and detailed other safeguards teams should be taking at this point, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the memo had not been released publicly.

NHL players also have been told they can go home and must self-isolate there until the end of March, suggesting any potential return to play in many weeks away.

The NBA has already been asking teams to share availability for their arenas through the end of July, a sign that the league is prepared to extend the season at least that long if necessary — and those moves came a couple of days before the CDC made its latest recommendation. The NBA regular season was to have ended April 15 and the NBA Finals were to have started June 4, with the season done on or before June 21.

In other recent pro sports virtual-reality changes:

- Indianapolis Motor Speedway officials say they are holding off on postponing the month of May activities that conclude with the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend.

- The Indy 500 draws crowds in excess of 300,000.

- The women's professional tennis tour has suspended all competition until May 2.

The WTA says it is calling off clay-court tournaments in Stuttgart, Istanbul and Prague, adding those to a list of events previously canceled. Each of those three tournaments was scheduled to begin in April.

The next Grand Slam tournament is the French Open, which is scheduled to begin in Paris on May 24.

Minor leaguer with Yankees is first in MLB with the virus

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A New York Yankees minor leaguer tested positive for the coronavirus, the Miami Marlins said their spring training complex and baseball began bracing for the possibility that opening day could be delayed into May or longer.

Major League Baseball was set to update teams Monday on its health policy in the wake of the virus outbreak.

On Sunday, a Yankees prospect became the first known player affiliated with MLB to contract COVID-19. Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said a "younger player" was affected, without identifying him. Cashman said the player "feels much better" and his symptoms had subsided, but he was still isolated.

"He did not have any interactions with our major league players," Cashman said on a conference call.

The Marlins, meanwhile, became the first organization to completely close their complex. Their big leaguers were told to take a break and avoid group activities.

The Marlins' move was a team decision, rather than something mandated by MLB. But there were indications that other camps wouldn't stay open much longer, and more shutdowns could set off a chain reaction that would mean no real games for a while.

MLB called off the rest of the spring training schedule on Thursday and said opening day, which had been scheduled for March 26, was postponed for at least two weeks.

Teams and players agree that two to four weeks of additional spring training will be needed before the regular season begins. Given the time required to reopen camps, hold workouts and then get started, opening day ap-

peared a long way off.

Yankees player representative Zack Britton said Friday the team had voted to remain together in Tampa and continue voluntary workouts.

"I'm sure the numbers are going to change," Cashman said. Cashman said he met with the major leaguers Sunday in light of the positive virus case at the minor league complex across the street from George M. Steinbrenner Field and the "players didn't voice anything" as to their immediate plans. But he said as the players process the information, "I just suspect things are going to change."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the new virus within a few weeks.

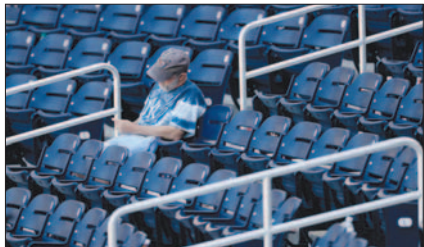
Some of Miami's players have homes near the spring training complex in Jupiter and plan to stay there. Others will go home.

MLB and the union recently had given players the option to stay at the site of their spring camp, return to their offseason homes or go to the club's home city.

Cashman said the player was tested on Friday morning and the minor league complex was closed. He said the positive result was confirmed late Saturday night into early Sunday morning.

Cashman said no one else in the Yankees organization other than the affected minor leaguer had been tested for the virus.

The team said the unidentified player had spent his entire time at the minor league complex and hadn't been over at the main stadium and facilities used by the major leaguers.



JULIO CORTES/AP

A lingering fan sits behind home plate after a spring training baseball game on March 12 between the New York Yankees and the Washington Nationals. An unnamed Yankees minor leaguer became the first known player affiliated with MLB to contract COVID-19.

SPORTS



Positive test
Yankees' minor leaguer first
in MLB with virus » **Page 23**

COMMENTARY

What might've been...



NCAA hoops season ends without bracket busters or buzzer-beaters

BY EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

For all those who dreamed the impossible — making it a whole month without getting a single game wrong in the bracket — this is your year.

Everything else about the NCAA Tournament that won't happen this season — from Selection Sunday, to the jaw-dropping bracket busters and buzzer-beaters, to the Sweet 16 to the Final Four? Call it March Sadness.

Before fears about the coronavirus scrubbed sports for the foreseeable future, Sunday was supposed to be the Big Reveal — the day when Americans gathered around a TV for an hour to watch ... drumroll ... a college basketball schedule being released.

It's so much better than it sounds.

It was supposed to be the day to imagine the possibili-

“Extremely, extremely disappointed.”

Mark Few
Gonzaga Bulldogs coach

ties; all the tantalizing matchups, the upsets-in-the-makings, the favorites, and, of course, the underdogs — so many underdogs — that would pop up on the 68 lines to set the table for America over the next three weeks.

It was supposed to be the day to kick off a rite of spring, and a rite of passage — a three-week college hoops spectacular that allows people to set aside their differences and replace them with other ones. It was an event designed every bit as much for the hard-core basketball fan as for the clueless neophyte who can't tell a pick-and-roll from a personal foul. It was for anyone with ten

bucks to blow in an office pool, or who really liked picking teams that wear red, or was quite sure a Blue Devil would vanquish a Red Raider if the actual team mascots went to war.

It was ... something we're going to miss this year in our coronavirus-infected country — a year in which we really could use an escape, but will be stuck watching reruns of “Blue Bloods” instead of games between blue bloods.

It was supposed to be a year for Kansas to walk in as the No. 1 overall seed and have two stories told at the same time. The Jayhawks could be staring at serious sanctions from the NCAA, which has targeted them with the dreaded “lack of institutional control” for a series of alleged recruiting violations. They were also being led by Udoka Azubuike, the big man who left Nigeria when

SEE HOOPS ON PAGE 22

Above: North Carolina State coach Jim Valvano, center with fist raised, celebrates after the No. 6-seeded Wolfpack knocked off the top-seeded Houston Cougars in the NCAA men's basketball tournament championship in Albuquerque, N.M. on April 4, 1983. There will be no such upsets this year after the NCAA canceled both the men's and women's championship tournaments on Thursday due to the coronavirus outbreak.

TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

